





## Readers' Letters

**IMPORTANT!** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do **NOT** accept anonymous mail. **LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!**

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters **BRIEF** and address them to: The Editor, **DON JOHN**, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)

# Hip op story with a happy ending...

**I**HAVE been concerned to read in newspapers how some private hospitals appear to have been giving poor service and to have been prohibitively expensive, because many seem to have foreign owners, whose main purpose seemed to be to make money.

I was also concerned and disappointed to have seen a colleague complaining on television of his extremely unpleasant experience of the same operation as I had in a hospital in the Vale.

I had my operation in Bridgend Clinic, and my experience was quite different. My tale was that I had a hip dislocated in 1974, when a Land Rover lost control on a corner on a wet country road, and crashed into the offside front of my car. I had already pulled into my side of the road and stopped.

After my resulting hip dislocation was reduced (replaced into position under anaesthetic in hospital), I was persuaded to stay in hospital 'under traction' for six weeks, with a weight pulling the immobilised leg away from its socket to save the joint's cartilage from dying.

It was explained that unless I did this, about 12 years later I would lose the last of the cartilage in this joint, which would be very uncomfortable.

Some 35 years later, a chiropractor, who was treating my leg discomfort, said she suspected that I had lost the last of my cartilage in this joint, and that I should arrange to have an x-ray.

The x-ray confirmed her diagnosis, so I asked the NHS medical practice I attended to arrange treatment. They told me that there was a waiting list for NHS surgery for this operation.

The wait was one year for an orthopaedic consultant surgeon's appointment, and another year

before the operation for a new joint. I had a lot of pain. My wife and I considered having it done privately, so I went to the Bridgend Clinic – a private treatment mini-hospital at the back of Bridgend's Princess of Wales Hospital.

The receptionist there managed to find a highly-recommended consultant orthopaedic surgeon before he left the hospital, and I had my consultation within the hour. There was a fee for this.

I was admitted to the clinic a week later, had the operation, had personal, pleasant and expert nursing in a meticulously-clean single room with TV, and I came home a week later, repaired.

It took a while for me to get into good balance, as my joint had been deteriorating for several years. The main complication, apart from initial stiffness, was sciatica on the other side – but the chiropractor at Llantwit Major Chiropractic Clinic, who had made a special study of muscle problems and 'triggers' at the University of Glamorgan, was able to clear this up, so that my walking has gone from strength-to-strength.

My operation, bed, nursing, crutches, home loo-seat, care and after-care (in fact, everything) cost a total of £8,000, which I was, fortunately, able to afford. This restored my life; I thought it was excellent value.

Any profit the clinic makes gets ploughed back into the NHS, so my operation was to the common good.

**Rob Eggleston, Ogmores-by-Sea.**

## HELP WITH THE ENERGY BILLS

**I**T is shocking to see that household energy bills have increased by 33 per cent in the last year, exceeding £1,200 per annum and twice the average bill five years ago.

High energy prices in Wales are compounded by poor housing stock quality, low income and poverty.

Nearly a quarter of households in Wales experience fuel poverty, resulting in 320,000 households having to spend 10 per cent or more of their income on energy to heat their homes adequately.

This may result in a choice between heating and powering their homes, as well as eating properly.

In Wales, 50,547 households are in debt to electricity suppliers and 46,588 in debt to gas suppliers.

The impact of fuel poverty goes beyond

financial consequences. Living in fuel poverty can affect people's health, increasing the risk of common ailments, such as colds, flu and respiratory infections including bronchitis.

This has resulted in excess of 1,500 winter deaths per year in Wales, with older people particularly susceptible.

But did your readers know that there is free support to help reduce energy bills?

If you own or privately rent your home, and you, or someone you live with receives a means-tested benefit, or your working tax credit is below £15,910 a year, you may qualify for support from the Welsh Government's Nest fuel poverty scheme.

Call Freephone 0808 808 2244, log onto [advice.wales@est.org.uk](http://advice.wales@est.org.uk) or write to Nest Programme, Innova One, Tredegar Business Park, NP22 3EL. **Rob Curtis, Barry (Vale councillor)**

• Email your letters to The Editor at: [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk) including your **FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER.**

## New venue for SCOPE'S community cafe at Kenfig

**THERE is an opportunity to make new friends and take part in activities at SCOPE's community cafe in Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill.**

Run as part of the Big Lottery-funded Community Companions – befriending for over 50s programme, the cafe has recently moved location, making it more accessible.

Darren, who is a regular at the cafe, said: "I love coming to the cafe to meet other people and take part in all the activities."

"I especially love the chocolate biscuits!"

Activities include arts and crafts workshops, raffles, volunteering opportunities, information and advice, cooking, gardening, chair exercises and health, tips on health and wellbeing, information sessions and lots more.

Barbara, another regular attendee, said:

"Although I was brought up in Kenfig Hill, I have recently moved back to the area and found that I have lost contact with all

my old friends. Coming along to the cafe enables me to meet local people and not feel isolated."

"I very much look forward to every Thursday!"

The Community Companions over 50s befriending scheme is co-ordinated by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) in partnership with other organisations including Bridgend County Borough Council.

Shaun Cooper, SCOPE's Area Manager Wales said: "We know that customers, volunteers, staff and the local community really value the Big Lottery-funded Community Companions Befriending Service, and over the years, our volunteers and staff have really helped customers develop their skills and confidence a lot."

"We want to continue improving our services, so that older people get to do what they want, when they want to."

Admission is £2.50, to cover activities and refreshments.

For further details, or to volunteer at the cafe, call Donna Akdemir-Young on 07990583822.

## Sony makes a children's ward its (official) charity partner

**SONY UK Technology Centre (UK Tec) has announced it will be supporting The Children's Ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend for the next two years.**

Kaye Aherne, Children's ward manager at the Princess of Wales Hospital commented:

"We are delighted that Sony UK Tec has chosen the ward as its official charity partner."

Sony will be organising and taking part in a range of charity activities to help raise funds, including a Secret Santa Christmas present drive, charity golf days, sponsored bike rides and 5K and 10K runs.

They will also be placing donation boxes in their office which will enable workers and their clients to contribute to the fundraising.

Mrs Aherne, added: "Children's idea of play and recreational activi-

ties has changed over the last few years and after consulting with other staff members, we feel that the money Sony UK Tec will raise can be used to upgrade our existing televisions, to include a DVD facility and perhaps purchase some portable play consoles."

"These would prove extremely beneficial, especially for children who need distraction therapies after invasive procedures, or general anaesthetic."

Steve Dalton OBE, managing director at Sony UK Tec, said:

"Whilst there are many worthy charities, we felt that we wanted to support a local organisation which provides care for children."

"We have always been interested in supporting the local community, so naming the children's ward at Princess of Wales Hospital as our official charity partner is a natural progression."

## New centre for Autism pupils in Maesteg

**CHILDREN with Autistic Spectrum Disorders could soon benefit from expert support and specialist learning facilities at Maesteg Comprehensive School after cabinet members from Bridgend County Borough Council (CBCB) agreed to consult on proposals to set up a Learning Resource Centre at the school.**

Parents, staff, the school's governing body and any other interested parties, will now be asked to give their views on the plans which would mean the centre becoming an integrated part of the mainstream school.

It would be able to cater for up to 12 pupils, and the first intake of youngsters would take place from September.

Coun Huw David, CBCB's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "The Learning Resource Centre would provide a fantastic addition to Maesteg Comprehensive School that would be beneficial for current pupils, future pupils and teachers, too."

"The council always supports the principle that, whenever possible, children should be educated within a mainstream school environment – so that they can develop and thrive within

their peer group, and have as much access to the curriculum as possible."

"From the pupils' point of view, as the Learning Resource Centre would be an integrated part of the whole school – they would gain from one-to-one, small group and whole class experiences, as appropriate."

"Other pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders who are already receiving mainstream education at the school, would also benefit, as the proposal would widen the specialist learning facilities available at the school and provide additional expertise and advice for all staff."

The council is also keen for pupils to be educated as near to where they live as possible.

Coun David explained: "Establishing a centre at Maesteg Comprehensive would allow those children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders who are living in the north of the county borough, to continue their education close to home, as the major feeder school for the new Maesteg Learning Resource Centre would be Llangynydd Primary School – where a Learning Resource Centre for younger pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders can be found."

**'New year - new you'**  
**LIBRARIES across the county borough have set up 'New year - new you' displays, which contain a range of books, DVDs and other library items to inspire residents to stick to their resolutions to lose weight, quit smoking or take up new hobbies.**

They can borrow a range of books, eBooks and e-audiobooks free to help them achieve their goals, a spokesperson said.

An extensive range of DVDs is available for members to borrow and Porthcawl Library has assembled a special display with an array of fitness.

### HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JANUARY 23)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
16 Thur	06.26	9.3	18.52	9.3
17 Fri	07.06	9.4	19.25	9.4
18 Sat	07.37	9.5	19.57	9.3
19 Sun	08.11	9.5	20.29	9.2
20 Mon	08.41	9.3	20.59	9.2
21 Tues	09.11	9.3	21.34	9.0
22 Wed	09.49	8.9	22.09	8.7
23 Thur	10.27	8.6	22.53	8.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.



# BRYNNA MAN RECEIVES A JAIL TERM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In January last year, the defendant contacted him concerning buying a Kia Sportage for sale on eBay.

Baldwin-Skeet bought it for £1,295 using a credit card.

Mr Richards delivered the vehicle to Pencoe Cabs. The defendant was out on a taxi run at the time.

But on February 21, Mr Richards' bank contacted him and indicated the credit card had been stolen, and that the payment was invalid.

It appeared that the card belonged to a Miss Nicola Jones, who had no idea how Baldwin-Skeet had obtained her details.

The vehicle concerned was sold on to a man in Pencoe, and a profit of £600 was made.

When arrested, Baldwin-Skeet said: "No comment to all questions," said Ms Wyn Morgan.

Mr Richards said in a statement that he had bought the garage with redundancy money. The fraudulent transaction, he said, had caused him to face bankruptcy.

The court was told that Baldwin-Skeet had convictions for 81 offences, 33 for fraud, and

kindred offences. He also had several convictions for theft.

Eugene Egan, for Baldwin-Skeet said the present offence involved only a single transaction. He was due to be released from his two-and-a-half year sentence in November.

Said Recorder Jeremy Jenkins: "I have to sentence you yet again for yet another offence of fraud."

"You are nothing more than a thoroughly dishonest man. You used information you had stolen to purchase the vehicle and left a man on the verge of bankruptcy."

Baldwin-Skeet was ordered to pay £100 victim surcharge.



Jane Hutt AM with staff and tenants at Ty Ogwr.

## Bridgend hostel visit by Finance Minister

**Finance Minister, Jane Hutt AM, has seen at first hand how Welsh Government funding is helping to support vulnerable homeless people in Bridgend.**

During a visit to the Ty Ogwr hostel, the Minister met tenants and heard how they are being supported to move on to more permanent accommodation.

The Ty Ogwr hostel, which was developed by Hafod Housing Association in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council, has 16 bedsits providing temporary accommodation to vulnerable people who are homeless.

The Welsh Government provided Social Housing Grant Funding of £1.25m towards the scheme which cost a total of £1.89m.

Jane Hutt said: "This housing scheme is a great example of how Welsh Government funding is helping to support some of the most vulnerable people in our society."

"I would like to praise the local contractor for the project, M & J Cosgrove who sub-contracted work to local SMEs and directly employed two apprentice carpenters on this development."

"Trainees were also employed from the local college, which provided further opportunities for young people to learn new skills."

"This is something I want to see happen on all public sector building projects. If we want to see the Welsh economy grow and thrive, we must support local businesses and give individuals the opportunity to develop their careers," she added.

## Schools set to amalgamate

**PONTYCYMER Nursery and Ffaldau Primary School are to be merged, following a public consultation.**

Pontycymer is the last remaining stand-alone nursery in Bridgend county borough, while Ffaldau is the only primary school without its own nursery, so bringing them together will result in enhanced continuity of curriculum provision for children aged from three years old, right up to 11 a spokesman said.

"Now that the plan has been approved by Bridgend County Borough Cabinet, the proposal is subject to a 28-day public notice period and, unless there are any objections, the amalgamation will go ahead and Pontycymer Nursery will become part of Ffaldau Primary at the end of August."

Nursery pupils will continue to be taught at Pontycymer Nursery's Victoria Street site, 900 yards away from Ffaldau Primary, until it is possible to accommodate the whole school on one site in the future.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people,

said: "I am delighted that this proposal, which forms part of our school modernisation programme, has been approved after receiving a lot of support from the local community. Several consultation meetings have been held so that as many views as possible could be heard and taken into consideration."

"Pupils at the schools were also asked what they thought and the children at Ffaldau gave it a thumbs-up as they were pleased that it will enable them to mix more with their younger brothers and sisters who are being taught in the nursery."

"Joining nursery and primary schools together helps to strengthen continuity in a child's education."

"The nursery section will continue to use the Victoria Street site for the foreseeable future, but amalgamating the schools will allow the expertise of the staff to be pooled, and will therefore create even more quality learning opportunities for the pupils in areas such as

choirs, music, social development, and physical education."

## Three hurt as taxi collides with a tree

**POLICE were called to a road traffic collision on the A48 in the early hours of Sunday morning, January 12.**

A police spokesman said: "At 5.03am we were called to a collision which occurred near the Pentre Meyrick junction on the A48."

"A taxi with two male passengers left the carriageway and was in collision with a tree."

"The fire and ambulance services were in attendance and the occupants had to be cut free with specialist equipment."

"The driver and two passengers were taken to Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend with minor injuries."

## Youth theatre prepares for next production



ABOVE: Rebecca Leigh and Joe Wiltshire-Smith get direction from the director of the Bridgend Youth Theatre, Roger Burnell.

**SENIOR members of Bridgend Youth Theatre have started rehearsals for their production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's gothic romance The Phantom of the Opera.**

Taking the role of the Phantom will be Joe Wiltshire-Smith, with Rebecca Leigh as

Christine, Meredith Lewis as Madame Giry, Gethin Phillips as Monsieur Firmin, Jack Ayres as Raoul, and Jack Davies as Monsieur Andre.

There will be performances on February 28 and March 1 at 2pm and 7.30pm on both days in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Tickets can be booked at the box office on 01656 815 889.

## 'Help elderly keep out the winter chills'

**A PORTHCAWL charity shop is asking the public to spread some warmth this winter by giving it their unwanted coats.**

Age Cymru's shop is at 37 John Street in Porthcawl and the charity is now running its Donate a Coat appeal as part of its annual Spread the Warmth campaign.

Chief Executive, Ian Thomas, said: "Age Cymru runs its yearly Spread the Warmth campaign to help make win-

ter warmer for tens of thousands of older people across Wales.

"We do this by providing older people with information, advice and practical services so that they can stay warm and well, but we need the public's help to do this."

Age Cymru shops also accept other items of clothing, household items, DVDs, CDs, books, children's clothing, toys and any donation you can give will help us to keep Wales warm - every donation helps.

## Vote for your worthy citizen!

**I WOULD like to encourage as many people as possible to get their nominations in for this year's Mayor's Citizenship Awards and reward our most outstanding local citizens.**

If you know someone who should be honoured for achievements such as courageous acts of bravery, charity fundraising, voluntary work or generally putting their community on the map during the last year, please get nominating!

The awards are open to anyone who lives in

Bridgend county borough, as well as local groups and businesses.

I'm really looking forward to hearing about the amazing things that local people do, and I would invite as many people as possible to please send in their nominations.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 24, and you can find out more by visiting the 'Mayor's page' on the council's website at [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk).

Coun CLIVE JAMES, Mayor of Bridgend county borough

**Read your GEM online:**  
[bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)

## BCBC acts in wake of 'mixed' school report

**THE Bridgend County Borough Council says it is "committed to supporting" Afon y Felin Primary School in North Cornelly - following a disappointing Estyn inspection last month.**

Cabinet members heard that a number of measures will be taken over the next 12 months to help the school improve, starting with an initial action plan - after the inspectors found the current performance and prospects of the school to be "adequate".

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "As when any school receives a disappointing inspection, the recommendations that have been made by Estyn will be taken on board, and the necessary support will be given to the school to help it improve."

"The local authority, through the education consortium, is already working closely with the school. In addition, the council's Corporate Director for Children will be meeting with the headteacher and the chair

of the governing body to discuss the short term action that will need to be taken."

"An action plan must be drawn up by the school with 45 days to address the recommendations that were made in the inspection report and Estyn will review the school's progress in 12 months' time. During this time we will also be closely monitoring the progress at the school."

"The inspection report was mixed, as there were also a number of positives that can be built upon for the future."

"For example, it was noted that the pupils have a high standard of behaviour and wellbeing, while the staff were praised for working together to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all pupils where the children feel valued, respected and ready to learn."

"However there were a number of shortcomings identified that are unacceptable and must be resolved."

A progress report will be made to Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet once the school has completed the post inspection action plan.

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## Leos become Lions

**MATTHEW Harries and Ben Squires were founder members of Porthcawl Comprehensive's Leo club and throughout their time in school both worked tirelessly in the Leos and also to support Porthcawl Lions.**

They have now left school, Matthew to study for a career in medicine and Ben to study law and, although they will be greatly missed in Leos, they have not left the Lions' organisation.

Last Tuesday, Porthcawl Lions president, Laurence Pearce, 'badged' both young men as full members of Porthcawl Lions club. All members are delighted to welcome them and look forward to seeing them as often as their new lives allow.

Lions clubs are open to both men and women from the age of 18 and they are always ready to welcome new members.

JOHN COSSON



# Bridgend girls team up for Miss Wales contest

PICTURED (left to right): Ellie Lewis, Heather Hopkins, Kirsty Eskins, Lauren Jones.

THE four young women who will be representing Bridgend county borough at the Miss Wales 2014 final have been announced.

'Team Bridgend' consists of: 18-year-old Kirsty Eskins, a psychology and criminology student from Brackla; 20-year-old, Heather Hopkins, an event manager from Maesteg; 20-year-old Lauren Jones, a student pharmaceutical technician from Maesteg; 17-year-old Ellie Lewis, a hair stylist from Bridgend.

The team will be one of 22 teams of young women from each local authority area in Wales who will take part in the Miss Wales final in April.

The four from Bridgend are all in with chance of being crowned Miss Bridgend 2014, and also Miss Wales 2014.

In the run up to the final in April, the young women will be tasked with fundraising for the Miss World charity 'Beauty With A Purpose'.

The Miss World platform generates millions for good causes every year. All the money raised in Wales will be donated to Bobath Children's Therapy Centre for Wales, which supports children with cerebral palsy.

Paula Abbandonato, from Cardiff events and PR company Vibe, is the organiser of Miss Wales. She said: "Every year we have an amazing line up of young women come together at Miss Wales."

## Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Andrew Hill - 14 Ffordd Candleston, Broadlands - Retrospective application for garage conversion.

Mr Sam Rees - Land adjacent Ty Gwyn Heol Y Graig, Porthcawl - Erection of three detached dwellings on vacant site.

Mr and Mrs J Martin - 8 Skomer Close, Porthcawl - Retrospective for conversion of garage into porch and laundry room with extension to form garden store and conservatory.

Mr J Richmond - 33 Heol Adare, Tondur - Single storey side extension and garage conversion.

Mr D Evans - 1 Port Terrace, Maesteg - Single storey extension to provide kitchen and



The girls who make up Team Bridgend for 2014 are equally exceptional.

"They are bright, ambitious and energetic and are coming together under the Miss Wales umbrella to have fun and make a difference."

"2014 will be our 10th anniversary of running Miss Wales. We have raised nearly half a million for good causes in that time and we hope that the finalists of 2014 will help us mark our anniversary in style."

Claire Brown from Bobath Cymru said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have the support of the Miss Wales competition. Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales provides specialist Bobath therapy to children from right across Wales who have cerebral palsy."

"This year we are celebrating our 21st Birthday so we are thrilled that we have this support at such a key time."

## Follow the 'robins' to learn about wildlife!

NEW 'interpretation boards' have been installed by BCBC at local nature reserves to highlight wildlife found there, with special 'robin' arrows on trees to help guide the public along marked trails.

The arrows can be seen in each of the three nature reserves at Frog Pond Wood in Pyle, Tremain's Wood in Brackla and Craig Y Parcau, which can be found next to Newbridge Fields in Bridgend.

Further signs are also planned for Lock's Common in Porthcawl, Kenfig National Nature Reserve and Bedford Park in Cefn Cribwr.

Coun Lyn Morgan,



New nature reserve signs.

cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Local nature reserves are fantastic places to take a walk and explore, and these new signs help to explain what sort of creatures and flora people should look out for, such as the broad-bodied chaser dragonfly,

moorhen, pipistrelle bats, nuthatch and wood mice.

"Even the youngest children will find it easy to understand these fun signs and enjoy following the robin arrows to try and spot the local species."

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FAMILY CHARITY

HOME START Bridgend is a family support charity, which recruits and trains volunteers to help families with children.

Families might be finding it hard to cope for a variety of reasons, illness, disability, post natal depression, mental health problems, isolation, bereavement, multiple births or just loneliness.

As a volunteer, you would visit the family once a week for a couple of hours, usually in their own home.

They might just need someone to talk to, or more practical support like meal planning, budgeting or help with finding out about local services such as playgroups.

The only qualifications we require are experience of bringing

up children, a friendly caring attitude, understanding the pressures of parenting and a non-judgemental attitude.

What will you get from volunteering? A highly-rated preparation

course, a boost to your self-esteem and confidence, or even a foot on the ladder towards a future career.

(SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 5)

## News from St Brides Major

A SERVICE was held at All Saints Church, Southerndown, to mark the retirement of the assistant Reverend, Moira Spence, after serving the parish for seven years. A presentation was made by parishioners.

Glamorgan Heritage Coast hold an open afternoon on Sunday,

January 26, at 2.30pm in the Heritage Coast centre.

There will be an illustrated quiz by the rangers, a raffle, refreshments and a short film will be shown of events through the year - all free. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun.

If you have any local news from St Brides Major area, contact Christina Davison on 01656 665527 or e mail christina.davison123@btinternet.com.

## Council day services move to new homes

THE cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has approved plans that will see day services for older people relocate from the Vernon Hart Centre to Cwm Calon in Maesteg, and from Minerva Street to the Bridgend Resource Centre.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The moves have been agreed after around 170 service users were given the opportunity to have their say on the relocations in a full consultation that was carried out with support from Age Cymru."

"Following the moves, which will take place over the next couple of months, older people will have access to a greater range of activities in their local communities and will share their new bases with the council's day services for people with learning disabilities."

"By relocating to Cwm Calon in Maesteg, older people will benefit from having a number of town centre facilities within easy reach, such as shops, the market, the library, cafes, and restaurants, while it is also close to the train and bus station, which will allow exciting new trips to be organised. The building also has a patio garden which service users can enjoy."

"Meanwhile, Bridgend Resource

Centre is a state of the art building at the Picton Court Retail Park that has excellent facilities including a hydrotherapy pool, physiotherapy suite and a sensory garden. The building is also much larger than Minerva Street, so it will feel more comfortable and spacious for service users."

"The relocations and the changes that have been made within day services will result in BCBC making a financial saving of £135,000 over the next three years."

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "By relocating to the new buildings, we will be able to provide a more efficient service and many new opportunities that will benefit older people."

"Some concerns were raised during the consultation about how the moves may affect issues such as transport, but I am pleased to reassure service users that the arrangements for transport will continue, and a hot meal will be provided every day as required, but with even greater choice than before."

"Now that the moves have been given the go ahead, introductory visits and taster sessions will take place before the moves are fully completed by March. There isn't a need for any building work to be carried out, but there will be some changes made to room decor and layout ahead of the move, along with the necessary transfer of furniture and equipment."

## Mothers-to-be urged to have 'vital' flu jab

A SPOT audit of mums-to-be in Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea has shown 77 per cent of them have already had their flu vaccination.

The audit, carried out in maternity clinics across the ABM area during December 2013, showed over three-quarters of pregnant women in the area have already had their 2013/14 seasonal flu vaccination.

This season's vaccination has been available since October. But if you are recently pregnant or just haven't had the chance to have your flu vaccination, there is still time.

Cathy Dowling, ABM Head of Midwifery, along with her midwives, supports all mums-to-be in having their flu vaccinations.

She said: "For mums-to-be and their unborn baby, flu is a life-threatening illness. It is vitally important pregnant women have their flu vaccination."

"I'm really pleased to see so many women have already taken up the vaccination. Those who haven't I strongly urge them to get their vaccination now."

"As a working mum, I completely understand how busy life is. Cooking, cleaning, working, the school run, finding missing socks and battling with the wonky trolley in the supermarket. But please, if you are pregnant put having your flu jab as a priority at the top of your 'To Do' list."



Cathy Dowling (centre) has her flu jab.

## Co-op's helping hand in time for Stitch Bridgend

CO-OPERATIVE members in the area have helped three community groups with grants totalling over £2,000 from The Co-operative Membership Fund, which supports local good causes.

Stitch Bridgend, which offers a modern take on learning sewing skills and has over 140 members aged from 17 to over 70, received £500 to enable it to buy essential new equipment, including sewing machines, irons, fabric and a printer.

Other Community

Fund awards were made to KPC Youth (£1,200) and, Tondur RFC, which received over £450 to purchase tackle bags and a scrummage machine.

Gemma Perkins, who founded Stitch Bridgend, said: "Stitch Bridgend started with one small group of local mums almost a year ago and, has grown to five weekly classes plus intensive courses based at Brackla Community Centre."

"We now have over 144 active members - and as many again on the waiting list - and we are thrilled with the support from The Co-operative."

It will make a big difference to our group."

Did you know you can read your GEM online?  
bridgend-today.co.uk



# 'IT'S OFF TO WORK WE GO!' Ogmore-by-Sea residents get buckets and spades to clear coastal path, after fury of big storm



No need to walk through a puddle at the gate – after volunteers had put down some 'hard standing'.



Lee Williams, Robin Eggleston and Donna Williams during the big tidy-up following the recent storm.

LOCAL residents at Ogmore-by-Sea donned their gloves and waterproofs and, equipped with spades and wheelbarrows, carried out a coastal clear-up following the recent storm.

Rocks and stones were strewn across pathways and areas of grass.

One resident, Robin Eggleston, told The GEM: "Many of us who live and dog-walk at Ogmore-by-Sea had an unpleasant surprise when we walked the coastal path the morning after the big storm.

"This natural lawn – approached from the lower car park gate – was littered with thousands of stones.

"Some were so big, the tops were a

square foot in size and four inches deep, but the main obstruction took the form of pieces of rock that littered the path for about 200 yards from the gate."

Robin said that on rare occasions when the a storm coincides with a very high tide, the area suffers the full fury of the Atlantic Ocean.

"The stones spoil the beauty of the path and inconvenience path walkers.

"A few of us met on Sunday morning, checked that it was okay with Councillor Geoff Gaen, and started work.

"We found that with garden rakes, shovels, buckets and wheelbarrows, and some 'hard heaves' with the bigger stones, we were able to make steady progress.

"Bigger stones were carried to the edge above the rocks and the smaller ones were

raked into piles, shovelled into the wheelbarrows, and then tipped over the path's edge.

"We kept some of the stones to 'floor' the wind-hollowed area under the metal kissing gate, and then covered these with gravel that we found in the rocky area below the path.

"We also used gravel to fill the recession between the stone pillars next to the locked wooden gate. Everyone has to walk through this and it forms a puddle every time it rains."

It took the small band of volunteers four hours to complete the job.

Robin added: "It was nice that people stopped for a chat and to offer us some kind words too."

## Virtuoso recital in Pencoed Church



Violinist Clark Alonzi performed at Trinity Presbyterian Church, accompanied by pianist Cheng Meng. (Photograph by MANDY THOMAS, mandythomasphotography.co.uk).

RECENTLY, the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pencoed, hosted an evening of classical music at which the main event was a performance of the Bruch Violin Concerto by up-and-coming young violinist Clarke Alonzi.

Clarke was playing at the invitation of Sonia Castle, of Trinity Presbyterian

Church, Pencoed.

He was accompanied on the piano by Cheng Meng, a young Christian from China who is finishing his masters degree in arts management in Cardiff.

Although the concert was free admission, voluntary donations were accepted for the Presbyterian English Medium School in Durtlang, Mizoram, North East India, which is a primary school Trinity Church supports. RC

## Fun time for siblings of disabled children

A new programme called SibZone has been arranged to offer activities and support at The Zone in Dunraven Place, Bridgend town centre, to children and young people aged eight to 15, who have a brother or sister with a disability.

Starting on January 27 for eight weeks, free workshops will be held each Monday from 5pm to 7pm (11-15 years) and every Wednesday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm (8-11 years).

A spokesperson said: "Very often, brothers and sisters can feel left out, due to the demands on the family when looking after a child with a disability.

"These workshops are an opportunity for young people to meet others in the same situation and enjoy activities totally for themselves.

"Each session will be run by qualified staff members who have been trained by SIBS, the only UK charity representing brothers and sisters of children and adults with a disability".

Developed by a range of partners including Families First, Y Bont and the Youth Options Consortium, and supported by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations

(BAVO), activities will include arts and crafts, games and cookery. For further details, call Sara Grinnell at the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme, telephone

01656 647891. There will also be an opportunity to find out more at an information session at The Zone on Monday, January 20 at 5.30pm.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

AT the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on January 29, PCSOs John Peglar and Dan Watts will offer crime prevention advice between 2pm and 4pm. For further information, telephone 07584 883637.

### MP's surgery

HUW Irranca-Davies MP will be holding a surgery on January 17 between 1pm and 2pm at the Day Centre, High Street, Gilfach Goch.

### CF39 8SS.

### Caerau forum

A COMMUNITIES First forum meeting for Maesteg and Caerau will be held on February 19 from 10.50am at St Cynfelyn Church, Caerau and will be focussing on health, followed by light refreshments.

For further information, contact 01656 815128 or email CF.Admin@bridgend.gov.uk.

## Quiz League round-up

ON January 6, teams returned with batteries recharged after the Christmas break – but there was not a lot of difference in form, as the results show!

Llangewydd Arms had their usual good performance, with a 56-34 win against Laleston Inn A, but the other two results in Division One were close affairs.

Crown Inn A maintained their good position in second place when they beat Tondy Railway Club 43-42, and Swan Nomads had a keenly-contested game at the Tyrisha Inn, when they beat the Royals 45-41.

In the second division, leaders Cabo Roche were surprisingly beaten by Oldcastle B by 52-50 and now share top spot with Crown Inn B, who just edged past Coychurch Wanderers by 46-44.

Pheasant Poachers kept up near to the top with a good 52-47 away

victory at Laleston Inn B, and Pyle RFC had their second win of the season when they beat a plucky Bush Kangaroos team 45-30.

Here are your four-for-thought:

1. Which herb, traditionally for memory, is often used to flavour roast lamb?
2. In which Dickens novel do the Punch and Judy characters Codlin and Short appear?
3. Which place kicker converted 17 out of 17 kicks at the 2007 Rugby World Cup?
4. Which popular television series was made into a musical that opened in the Garrick Theatre in London in August 2007?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:  
1. Rosemary.  
2. Old Curiosity Shop.  
3. Chris Patterson.  
4. Bad Gifts.

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# WILL THERE BE CHANGES TO THE T9 RUN FROM AIRPORT TO THE CAPITAL? Review ordered into a 'ghost' bus service

**THE Welsh Government has ordered a review into the so called 'ghost bus service' which runs from Cardiff Airport into the capital three times an hour.**

The T9 bus has been dubbed the 'MT9' by frustrated locals who have seen their own Vale routes being cut back.

Now, a transport expert, Professor Stuart Cole, will scrutinise whether there should be changes to how it operates.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "It was always the intention

to review the service after it had been operational for a few months and the Minister has asked Professor Stuart Cole to examine whether any revisions to the current service are required without compromising its principal objectives as an express service.

"Professor Cole is due to report back shortly."

*The GEM understands that could be as early as the end of this month, or the beginning of February.*

The regional Assembly Member, Andrew RT Davies, has called on the Welsh Government to open the service up to Vale resi-

**by TIM CHAPMAN**

dents en route to make it economic. Currently, it is a through service from the airport into Cardiff.

The Welsh Government would be loath to drop the service because a link between Wales' only international airport and the country's capital is considered vital.

**'EXPENSIVE'**

Mr Davies said: "The fact that Professor Cole has been summoned to undertake a review of the T9 service tells you a lot about how the Minister feels it is performing.

"As a local resident I regularly see this bus, invariably empty except for the driver.

"At almost half a million in Welsh Labour Government subsidy that's an exceptionally expensive service to support, and on current passenger numbers is simply unsustainable.

"I would urge Professor Cole to look into ways of making this bus available to local residents who are currently barred from using it.

"Rhoose is one of south Wales' largest villages and yet residents have been left overnight without a bus service.

"Salt is further rubbed

into the wound when you consider the combined cost of the T9 shuttle with the service linking Rhoose train station with the airport - almost £600,000 in public money.

"Many other routes servicing the Vale have also disappeared following cuts to operator grants and it must be distressing to see those routes withdrawn whilst this publicly funded 'ghost train' keeps on swallowing cash."

Rhoose doesn't have a direct bus service into Cardiff and some residents have called for the T9 to make a detour into the village once an hour.



Bridgend Male Choir is preparing for Llangollen.

## Llangollen Eisteddfod beckons for the Bridgend Male Choir

**THE choristers and music team at Bridgend Male Choir are delighted that the choir has been invited to take part in the Male Voice Choir competition at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in July.**

The choir last participated in 2005 when it finished just out of the prize money in fourth place, in a competition won by Cor Godre'r Aran (Llanywllan, north Wales); the Diocesan Boys School Choir (Kowloon) and Linköping University Choir (Sweden), but in front of the National Male Choir of New Zealand; Cor Brythoniad (Blaenau Ffestiniog); Warrington MVC and Dore MVC (Sheffield).

At this stage, other choirs invited for 2014 have not been announced, but there's no doubting the standard will be extremely high again. Having finished in second place at both the Majestic Male Choir competition, Torquay, and International Isle of Man Festival at Douglas in 2013, the choir hopes to go one place better.

Learning the choir's own choice of competition repertoire has already begun under musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale and accompanist, Stephanie Bailey, who have the capability of coaching a likely 80 choristers to represent the town to high competitive standard.

This competition repertoire, together with a number of other new items introduced for this new 'term', give the choristers plenty to focus on.

The Bridgend Male Choir can next be heard on Saturday, February 15, at the Sony Theatre, Bridgend College Campus on Cowbridge Road, Bridgend.

The concert will also feature the harmonious Vocelle Ladies Choir, Pontyclun, and the Children's Choir of Oldcastle School. The concert is in aid of St John's Trust (Newcastle Hill). Tickets from enquiries@stjohns-bridgend.org.uk or choir secretary, Gareth Reese on 07773 170373.

**DAVID BURT**

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The Bridgend Male

**DAVID BURT**

## Big year for local Townswomen's Guild!

**THIS year is an important one for Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild, as we will be celebrating our 60th birthday in February.**

A luncheon will be held in the Grove Golf Club, attended by our national chairman and guests, and the speaker will be Mr Roy Noble.

Our chairman, Dee Richardson, welcomed members and visitors to the January meeting and members were reminded of a small 'getting to know you' coffee morning for members and friends on January 21 (10.30am) at the Atlantic Hotel. £100 has been donated to Porthcawl Parkinson's Society as a result of fundraising at our Christmas party.

Our speaker, Mr David Anderson, gave a most interesting presentation on 'Discovering Austria', aided by Mr Brian Haberfield, who had adapted his photographs for modern screening.

The beautiful pictures brought back memories to some members and encouraged others to visit for themselves.

Our next meeting is on February 12 (2pm) at All Saints Church Hall, when the speaker will again be Mr Brian Haberfield.

**DOROTHY THOMAS**

## AMS ARE CONCERNED OVER A&E PATIENT PRESSURES

**NEWS that the A&E department at the Princess of Wales (PoW) Hospital is under pressure has been greeted with dismay by two regional Conservative AMs.**

Suzi Davies and Byron Davies are unhappy about the fact that elective operations are also being cancelled by the ABMu health board which runs PoW and also Morriston Hospital.

Mrs Davies said that she had recently met Andrew Davies, chairman of ABMu, who assured her that winter resilience plans were in place to cope with the expected upturn in demand for hospital treatment at this time of year.

She said: "It's very disappointing to hear that already people are being advised to stay away if they have a minor illness or injury, and go instead to the MIU at Baglan.

"We all know that some people will not heed that advice and will still turn up at A&E in Bridgend. Last year,

the department was in meltdown and I had hoped that actions taken by the Welsh Government during the year would have alleviated this problem."

Byron Davies went on: "I recently obtained information from the ABMu health board that more than 1,000 elective operations had to be cancelled in 2013 because of bed shortages at its hospitals.

"We are barely into 2014 and we have 18 operations being cancelled because of pressures on A&E, with large numbers of elderly, sick people needing hospitalisation.

"The truth is that we simply do not have enough hospital beds in Wales. In the past decade, the Labour Government in Cardiff has axed a fifth of our beds. It must now be blindingly obvious to everyone that too many have gone and we cannot cope with peaks in demand - especially during the winter.

"There is a need for the Health Minister to sit down with his officials to decide how many beds are needed per

100,000 people in Wales so that the health boards have a bottom line below which they must not go.

"At the moment, there is no bottom line and closing beds seems to be the easiest option."

A spokeswoman for the hospital trust said: "Beds are under increasing pressure as cases of Norovirus start to rise.

"Two wards, one in Neath Port Talbot Hospital, and one in the Princess of Wales Hospital, are closed to new patients because of diarrhoea and vomiting.

"This limits the use of these wards, reducing the number of beds available for waiting patients; which then causes knock-on delays.

"We apologise to patients whose planned surgery is being postponed. This is not done lightly, as we realise the inconvenience and upset this causes. We will do our very best to reschedule their operations as soon as possible.

"In order to manage this surge in emergency demand,

patients who are not emergency cases, or who do not have serious injuries, should avoid Morriston and the Princess of Wales Emergency Departments.

"Instead, they should follow Choose Well advice and see their pharmacist or GP, or attend the Minor Injury Unit (MIU) in Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

"In some cases, people with minor injuries arising from trips and falls a few days ago are waiting until now to come to our major emergency departments for treatment.

"These are not serious injuries and their GP or the MIU is the best place for them to be seen. By turning up at A&E, they are not only facing delays before they can be treated, but they are tying up clinicians who need to concentrate on very sick patients.

"For advice on where to go if you need care but are not an emergency, please see www.abm.wales.nhs.uk/abm-choosewell"

## 'on-demand' bus service

**G1 Llantwit Major to Bridgend via Cowbridge and surrounding villages**

From 20 January 2014, Greenlinks Community Transport will be trialling a new flexible bus service between Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Bridgend Town Centre and the surrounding villages.

The service will operate Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) between 8:15am and 6:15pm and is open to all passengers.

Seats on the bus must be requested in advance by 12 noon, at least one working day before transport is required. To request a seat on this service please call the freephone number 0800 294 1113 between the hours of 09:00 - 13:00 Monday to Friday.

This service will accept Welsh Concessionary Passes



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Bydd y gwasanaeth hwn yn rhedeg o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener (ac eithrio ar wyl y banc) rhwng 8:15am a 6:15pm, a bydd croeso i bawb ei ddefnyddio.

Bydd yn rhaid i chi gadw sedd ymlaen llaw drwy wneud cais erbyn canol dydd o leiaf un diwrnod gwaith cyn teithio. Cewch wneud ffôn drwy ffonio rhif rhadffôn 0800 294 1113 rhwng 09:00 ac 13:00 yn ystod yr wythnos waith (Llun-Gwener).

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To find out more please contact us on / Am fwy o wybodaeth, ffoniwch ni ar / arfonwch neges i Greenlinks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit the website at / new seich / www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/greenlinks

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# Praise for emergency workers during storms is very welcome

**RESILIENCE** is my word for 2014.

It's Saturday, the sky is blue, the sun is shining, there is no wind and Porthcawl is full of people walking along the coast. The difference between now and a week ago could not be greater.

I spent Friday calling on people affected by the flooding of the previous week. Talking to people in Newton and along West Drive and Windsor Road brought the 'resilience' word into focus.

Everyone I spoke to could not say enough to praise both Natural Resources Wales and the Bridgend County Borough Council work-

force. The speed of response, especially in bringing tons of rock to Newton Bay was described as "amazing".

As an MP, mostly people come to me with complaints so to hear nothing but praise was a great response to what would have been at the time a very frightening few days.

*A lady in Windsor Road described watching the sea roll up her street as a workman struggled to unclog a blocked drain. She described how a wave was so high it washed over his head - and the man just kept on working!*

Praise for the speed at which debris was removed and the storm drains cleared was repeated by many of the people I spoke to. Everyone felt that a

catastrophe had been averted by the quick response and determination of the workforce.

In Westminster, Welsh MPs raised the need for councils, facing the high cost of dealing with flooding, to be provided with additional financial support. Reductions to central government funding has, in Bridgend, resulted in cuts of almost £30 million since 2010.

This means there is little resilience in council coffers to meet the extra costs of tackling the floods.

*Wales has more than a quarter of the size of the English coastline; yet we get only 5 per cent of the money.*

*Why? Because flooding funding is allocated on the basis of the size of the population not the length of the coast-*

## WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

**Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for GEM readers.**



*line - an issue I am writing to Ministers to ask them to address.*

It is, however, harder to ask Ministers to address foolishness.

Over the weekend, I was told a story several times. I cannot vouch for its accuracy, but repeat it because it relates to the less positive aspect of the flooding.

A bulldozer was used to close off access to the sea front because of the height and velocity of the waves. A man in a car with his two chil-

dren asked the bulldozer driver to move so that he could drive along the seafront to show his children the high waves.

The driver refused and was punched by the man, who said he had driven some distance to show his children the waves.

Porthcawl hit the front pages of many national newspapers because of foolishness.

The photograph (I assume from the RNLI website) showed people watching high waves hitting the breakwater

and risking being carried out to sea - people who would look to the Coast Guards and Life Boat crews to risk their lives to save them.

We live with the sea as part of our lives and forget how powerful and dangerous a force it can be.

We have learned to see resilience as not just about official organisations having plans and a trained workforce to deal with a crisis but about how we as members of the public should take responsibility for responding to risks.

Over three weeks, we saw families having to cope without electricity, heating, emergency services, access to banking, food and transport.

Another form of resilience addressed

these issues last week. The Defence Select Committee's report 'Towards the next Defence and Security Review' was published.

Our report looked at the changing nature of warfare and new forms of conflict, from cyber attack to financial, trade and psychological warfare, and the blurring of distinctions between terror and criminal networks.

Cyber attacks, especially to national infrastructure, are the highest priority threat to the UK.

National infrastructure is defined as: "Those facilities, systems, sites and networks necessary for the functioning of the country and the delivery of the essential services upon which daily life in the UK depends."

These are categorised into nine sectors: communications, emergency services, energy, financial services, food, government, health, transport and water.

The storms and floods of the last few weeks can be seen on many levels.

A warning of the impact of climate change. A test of civil emergency capabilities. An alert to improve flood protection.

It was also a test of our resilience and preparedness to cope with the loss of critical national infrastructure.

This time, the threat came from mother nature, and the holiday period left us less prepared.

*Next time, the threat may be human and we may not be so lucky.*

## Delving into the county borough's digital past

VISITORS are being encouraged to step back in time to discover more about Bridgend county borough's heritage.

'Digital Bridgend' will use modern technology to let people down-

load videos and audio guides via their smartphones and tablets when they are visiting some of the county borough's most historic sites.

Six 'hubs' and places of interest across the county borough have been identified by BCBC where visitor interpretation could be improved.

Local residents will be able to find out what day-to-day life was like in the area's many castles, hear tales such as Llangynwyd's Maid of Cefn Ydfa, and discover more about the old washeries in Ogmere Vale, the Ironworks of Bridgend, the Dyffryn Llynfi Porthcawl Railway, and the global impact made by Dr Richard Price, from Llangenor.

More than 40 heritage organisations have already been involved in the project and organisers have arranged drop-in events where historians, schools, community groups, businesses and residents can give their views on what digital content should be included.

### Drop-in dates:

January 16, 6:30pm - 8:30pm: St Illtyd's Church, Newcastle;  
January 20, 6:30pm - 8:30pm: Parc Slip Nature Reserve;  
January 22, 6:30pm - 8:30pm: Porthcawl Pavilion;  
January 23, 6:30pm - 8:30pm: The School Room, Llangynwyd.

## A visit from the music man

THE January meeting of Sker WI was held recently, and president Nora Williams welcomed members back after the Christmas break.

Various outings and events are planned for the next couple of months, including a charity event and pancake night.

The WI resolutions were discussed and after going through the different options, it was decided more provision should be made for non-acute hospital beds.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Mike Boyles on 'My kind of Music'.

Mr Boyles has been

into music since he was 14, when he learnt to play the piano, then the organ.

He was an organist for 57 years and played at his local church, where he tried to bring new music to the hymns. Mr Boyles demonstrated the different types of music he likes, i.e. organ and orchestral.

After a break for tea and biscuits, Mr Boyles ran a quiz on music from different shows.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 13 at St David's Church Hall, Nottage at 7pm when the speaker will be Mr Alan Jones on 'Wenglish'. Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

ANN VIPOND

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# Cannons found on a Porthcawl beach



**RIGHT:**  
Paul and Ceri Joseph display the cannon.

THE storms of the last fortnight have resulted in two cannons appearing just off the beach at Rest Bay, Porthcawl.

Porthcawl Museum were contacted on January 4, by Mr Ross Cuthbertson and Ms Sian Diamond from Port Talbot, who had come across the cannons while walking their dog, Bonnie.

Mr Paul Joseph, chairperson, and Martin Little, head of archaeology at the museum, visited the site and arranged for the cannons to be removed to the museum.

The cannons which are thought to be around 250 years old, will now, under Mr Little's guidance, undergo months of preservation techniques.

Eventually, it is the intention of museum members to return them to their former glory and display them along with their researched history at the museum.

Mr Joseph said that the removal of the can-



nons to the museum would have proved impossible without the tremendous help given by Carl Evans and other members of Porthcawl Lifeboat Station.

He explained how it took 10 people to trans-

port the larger cannon on Friday night.

He continued: "We are not only indebted to the Porthcawl RNLI, but heartened that members of the public recognise and trust us with their finds. It is so important that the public have a local organisation that will help keep and preserve their history."

The finding of the cannons coincides with the intention of BCBC to dispose of the Old Police Station, John Street; the building in which Porthcawl Museum is housed.

The museum committee desperately hope that a solution can be found to keep the museum in Porthcawl.

Apart from the work now required on the cannons, members of the museum are also continuing their two years' research, organization and collection of local memorabilia for the First World War Centenary Exhibition, to open in April 2014 at the museum.

During this period of refurbishment for the exhibition, the museum office will be open every Wednesday 2pm - 4pm and Saturdays 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm. Should anyone wish to view the cannons during these times, please feel free to visit.

For more information, email porthcawlmuseum@hotmail.co.uk; telephone 01656 788853 or visit porthcawlthegreatwar.com.

**CERI JOSEPH,**  
Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society.

**Read your GEM online:**  
bridgend-  
today.co.uk

## CYCLE OWNER IS ASSAULTED

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating a robbery at around 3pm on Sunday, January 12 on Nolton Street in the centre of the town, after a 33-year-old local man left his bicycle in the lane adjacent to the Olympic Kebab shop.

He returned to see a man in the process of stealing it and was assaulted.

A second man joined the suspect and they made off with the blue-coloured mountain bike, as well as

a Nokia mobile telephone, police said. One man was in his 30s, six feet tall, of large build and clean shaven. He was wearing a black and white patterned hooded top.

The other man was also in his 30s with a thin, clean shaven face and short black hair. He was wearing a black jumper and trousers.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 (note reference 62140011484).

## Kenfig Hill's tribute to mining heritage

**HEATHBRIDGE Miners' Square, a Pyle Community Council project, pays tribute to the men who worked and died in the collieries of the area.**

After receiving requests from local people it has arranged for families or individuals to commemorate the time they (or a member of their family) worked in one of the collieries.

"Individual plaques with a name and details of the colliery and approximate dates can be purchased at a cost of £30; the plaques will be mounted on the circular retaining wall at the memorial square. It is hoped all the applications will be accepted



but they may have to be limited because of the actual wall space available. If oversubscribed, applications will be subject to a first come first served process," the council states.

Forms are available from; Harold J Phillips,

Clerk to Pyle Community Council; telephone 07792 010043, email clerk.pylecc@yahoo.co.uk or contact the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill & Pyle Life Centre, Pyle.

## Anita's eye-opening trip to the Philippines

**MEMBERS of the Ystradowen and District WI met for the first time in 2014 at the village hall on January 8, when president Jan Foyle began with business matters.**

Chris Kelly spoke of a proposal for the August trip and suggested members may enjoy a day in Cheltenham.

We can visit the gallery and museum and maybe partake of some retail therapy! This met with approval; the suggested date is Wednesday, August 6.

Irena gave a report of WI public affairs. The theme for the Margam Show this year is Feasts and Festivals.

Secretary Moira read the month's correspondence and the proposed resolutions to be put forward by NFWI were discussed.

The majority of members voted for the proposal to increase the number of non-urgent hospital beds available to be increased.

Our speaker (member Anita Jones) needed no introduction. We had waited for 12 months to hear part two of her entertaining talk on a holiday with her son and his Philippine wife. Last

### YSTRADOWEN WI NEWS

January, we were entertained by part one of 'Go Granny Go', and we left Anita on the island of Borocora.

The family are now about to leave the island and return to Manila. The first adventure was to walk across a gangplank, very narrow with no handrails.

Anita claims she is unsteady on her feet. However, she survived and boarded the plane for the return flight.

They returned to traffic congested roads in that country's capital city.

Anita's hotel room was deluxe, unlike any she had seen before. Everything was clear glass. There was no natural light and one entire wall was covered with an exotic fish tank.

The following day, they visited the most historic place in Manila, the War Museum.

The story of the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in the second world war and the role played by the Americans - led by General MacArthur - was displayed.

Most of the people today are poor and a large proportion live in rural areas where life is

very cheap. The family moved on to a hotel in the mountains - not so opulent and filled with young people - all catering students.

The meal they provided consisted of corned beef and egg. Anita would have loved a gin and tonic, something they had never heard of! She had to settle for coffee and fruit juice!

They returned to Manila and Anita eventually left for home.

She will never forget this adventure and is left with impressions of many poor people living in very crowded conditions and existing with the terrible threats of storms and tsunamis, which can destroy entire villages.

The raffle was won by Val Staddon. The monthly walk will take place on January 15 and the coffee get-together at the White Lion on January 23.

The monthly meeting will be held on February 5, when Margaret Rogers will tell us about her Olympic volunteering experience.

As always, visitors and new members will be welcome. **EL**

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# SANDVILLE CELEBRATES TWELFTH NIGHT FANCY DRESS AT HI TIDE!



## Report and Photographs by KEITH E MORGAN

**THIS** year's annual Twelfth Night fancy dress party at the Hi Tide was filled with revellers and the fancy dress turn-out was fabulous.

I will never cease to be amazed at the ingenuity of people when it comes to designing and/or choosing fancy dress for this event, especially the groups.

As usual, the prime movers were Arthur and Marilyn Beale, ably supported by Dave and Patricia Jones, who led a team of volunteers, too many to name.

The event was held in the Hi-Tide, thanks to the generosity of Geoff and Francesa Dower and was under the control of Dave Jones, the manager, with compères Lenny Dee and Robbie Owens ensuring that the evening ran according to plan.

Musical support was given by the 'Casual Affair' band, made up of Ian Griffin and Rob Gillespie with vocalist Natasha Doyle.

The guest of honour and lead judge was Owen Teale, the well-known local TV and film actor extraordinaire. The team of judges who accompanied Owen were Alyson and Eifion Evans, Cathy and Neil Poacher and the lady herself, Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE.

All proceeds from the evening go to the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tŷn Kenfig, with Barclays Bank, Porthcawl, the main supporter, matching £750 against the raffle which this year realised £850; a total of £1,600!

Barclay's were represented by Caroline Tranter, Porthcawl branch manager, and Sue Jenkins, customer adviser. Sue is retiring on March 1 after 32 years service with Barclays.

The fancy dress ball itself raised the order of £2,500 for the evening, a fabulous amount considering the period of austerity which everyone is going through and experiencing at this present time.

The usual programme of events was followed for the evening with fancy dress competitions for the best single lady, best single male, the best doubles and finally, the best group.

Again, the panel of judges had a very difficult task in choosing the first, second and third in each category and even had to resort to sharing the second place in the groups' event between two sets of competitors, the competition being so keen and close. Most of the prize winners returned their prize money to Sister Gwyneth for Sandville funds.

The evening's entertainment was brought to a close with the 'Sandville Scrubbers' act which this year was called 'The Illusionists'. It was very difficult recognising whose arms, legs and bodies belonged to whom because of the optical illusion created by the black and white chequered costumes worn by each of the six members of the act, Arthur and Marilyn Beale, Dave Jones, Dr Alison Jones, Judith Callaghan and Ann O'Keefe.

Owen Teale was invited to address the happy band of revellers and said how glad he was to be able to come back again this year to the Hi Tide to take part in such a fabulous event. He was amazed at the ingenuity of those who attended in their choice and design of costumes. Being a judge at such an event, he said, was difficult but very enlightening.

Owen went on to say that this year we would be celebrating the one 100th anniversary of the birth of Dylan Thomas, the Swansea-born poet. As part of this centenary celebration, Owen is taking a company of actors on tour throughout Wales, giving performances of Dylan Thomas' play, *Under Milk Wood*, at Aberystwyth, Brecon, Newtown, Newport and in April, The New Theatre, Cardiff, and The Grand Theatre at Swansea. An event, Owen advised everyone, not to be missed.

Arthur Beale was next to take the podium, at which he expressed his sincere thanks to the Hi Tide and all those who had turned out for the fancy dress ball which was, of course, held every year on Twelfth Night, to support the Sandville Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig.

He invited everyone to remain and enjoy the dancing to the music of the 'Casual Affair' band and the singing of Natasha Doyle.



**ABOVE:** The Barclays and raffle team (left to right) sitting: Caroline Tranter, branch manager, Barclays, Porthcawl; Sue Jenkins, customer adviser, Barclays, Porthcawl; Ann O'Keefe and Judith Callaghan; standing: Marilyn Beale, Snow White (alias Arthur Beale); Dr Alison Jones and Trish Jones.

**ABOVE:** Owen Teale, TV and film star, guest of honour and lead judge, receiving a warm welcome by Sister Gwyneth Poacher, and 'Baby' Helen Scott (née Beale).

**RIGHT:** Men's singles winner 'Dame Edna Everage', alias Kevin McCarthey.



**Group winners** The Hi Tide Hurlers', Dave, Nadia, Barry, Helen and Rob.



**Men's singles runner-up** 'The Milky Bar Kid.'



**Men's singles third place** went to 'Jack Sparrow, Pirate of the Caribbean'.



**The judges** (left to right): Neil Poacher, Sister Gwyneth Poacher, Owen Teale, Cathy Poacher, Alyson and Eifion Evans.



**ABOVE:** The ladies' singles winner was Dr Alison Jones.

**LEFT:** 'The Sandville Scrubbers' act, which this year was called 'The Illusionists.'

**RIGHT:** Doubles runner-up 'The Simpsons'.



**Doubles winner** 'The Millionaires'.



**Doubles third place**, the Hi Tide Girls.



**Groups third place**, 'The Magic Circle', Joel, Becky Liz and Matthew.



**Arthur Beale** giving his closing address.



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# LOCAL WOMAN'S SOUTH POLE CYCLING TRIUMPH

A VALE adventurer is now back home, after setting two world records during her epic cycle ride to the South Pole.

Maria Leijerstam arrived at Heathrow to be met by a crowd of supporters, who noted that the other two challengers to cycle to the Pole, American Daniel Burton and Spaniard Juan Menendez Granados, were still cycling.

Maria (35) was suffering from chronic knee pain when she arrived, but having become the first person in the world to cycle to the South Pole in a record-breaking time of 10 days, 14 hours and 56 minutes, her delight overshadowed the pain.

She said: "I was adamant that I wanted to pedal every metre of the way."

"Even in areas of deep snow drifts I was able to propel myself forward with the assistance of my hands on the wheels, while shifting my weight to gain traction."

Maria rode on a unique polar cycle, built by Inspired Cycle Engineering of Cornwall.

It had three wheels to give her stability and allowed her to sit in a recumbent position to optimise aerodynamics in the winds of Antarctica.

Her route took her from the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf up the Leverett Glacier, which has been virtually unexplored by adventurers.

Against the stunning backdrop of mountains, she spent 26 cycling hours climbing 2,941 metres up the Leverett Glacier at an incline of over 20 per cent at times.

"My mind was constantly busy as I tried to calculate the best way forward with every revolution of the wheel."

"In order to maintain a steady speed, I had to focus hard on avoiding



Maria Leijerstam.

snow drifts and sastrugis, which ultimately stopped me in my tracks."

Maria's knee became increasingly painful after climbing the glacier with 55kg of kit. She had to resort to strong painkillers to relieve her dislodged knee cap.

A constant battle against frostbite was also at the forefront of her mind.

Back in Wales she is planning another full season of 'Burn Series' multisport events, which introduce people to adventurous sports, on [www.burnseries.co.uk](http://www.burnseries.co.uk)



Maria's achievement was all the more impressive as the other two people attempting the cycle ride were still on their bikes when she returned home!

## ASSEMBLY GRANTS TO RAISE STANDARDS

**NEW financial incentives of up to £20,000 for top postgraduate students who want to train to teach priority subjects – such as maths, physics and chemistry in Wales – have been announced by the Assembly Government.**

Eligible postgraduate trainee teachers with a first class degree will receive the highest funding in 2014/15 – with lower amounts for those with a 2.1 or 2.2.

Funding will not be available for those without at least a 2.2 degree

classification.

Incentives of up to £15,000 will be available for those studying Welsh, modern foreign languages and ICT.

For those with a first class degree studying other secondary postgraduate and primary studies teacher training courses, a £3,000 incentive will be available.

There will be a further supplement of £2,000 for those undertaking primary postgraduate courses whose first class degree classification is in the subjects of English, mathematics and Welsh – to raise standards in literacy and numeracy.

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## Perfect start to 2014 for Porthcawl Comprehensive

**PORHCWL Comprehensive School enjoyed a perfect start to 2014 – by achieving a top Estyn inspection report.**

The inspectors judged that performance of pupils and staff at the school was 'good'.

The school received an 'excellent' rating for its partnership working, and inspectors gave particular praise for its links with universities and colleges to support sixth form students, and for supporting year-6 pupils' transition into the school.

Exceptional working relationships between teachers and pupils, as well as pupils' positive attainment and behaviour, contributed to additional 'good' ratings being awarded to the school.

They extended across all remaining inspection categories – wellbeing, learning experiences, teaching, the learning environment, leadership, improving quality, resource management, and care, support and guidance.

Having worked at Porthcawl Comprehensive for 16 years in a variety of roles, Andrew Slade has been headteacher for just over a year.

Inspectors noted that his strategic vision and newly-formed senior leadership team play a significant role in the school's 'good' prospects for improvement.

Mr Slade said: "This

report is just reward for all the hard work from the staff, pupils and parents at our school.

"The school is a reflection of the efforts made by all associated with it – we are all delighted that Estyn have recognised this."

The school also received praise for the wide range of high quality extra-curricular activities that it offers to pupils, ranging from surfing to basketball.

In 2013, the school netted the Welsh Schools' under-14 boys' and Welsh Schools' under-14 girls' basketball titles.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "It's fantastic news that the work of pupils, staff and governors at Porthcawl Comprehensive is paying dividends with this outstanding inspection report."

"I'd like to congratulate teachers, governors, staff and children, who should all be really proud of this hard-earned recognition, and wish them all good luck for the rest of the school year."

Estyn will now invite Porthcawl Comprehensive to prepare a written case study on issues surrounding vulnerable children and their emotional wellbeing during transition into the school, as an example of best practice.

## IRON HORSE TRACTOR RUN

The Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society is holding its third annual tractor run this Sunday (January 19) in aid of Wales Air Ambulance, when old and new tractors and 4x4s will be taking part on Cwm Risca Farm, Tondur.

All the proceeds from the event will be going to the helicopter charity and fundraising manager Mark Stevens said: "We're delighted to be chosen once again as the charity that the Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society would like to raise money for."

The event starts at 9.30am and includes coffee and a raffle. The Wales Air Ambulance mock helicopter will be there – a converted training helicopter that resembles current aircraft.

For more information visit: [glamorganironhorse.webs.com](http://glamorganironhorse.webs.com).

## Young dancers do Bridgend proud in Welsh Masters



**ABOVE: Some members of the team with their awards.**  
Back row - Kelsey Randall, Rebecca Jenkins, Nakeisha Randall.  
Centre row - Carys Goodfellow, Laura Abraham.  
Front row - Summer Watkin, Harri Watkin, Leya Townsend.

**I JUST wanted to write in to highlight a local achievement by a group of young dancers – part of a community dance team called EVOKE.**

They have been training to compete at qualifying heats across the country which will lead to the world championships in Blackpool this August.

The style of dance is truly unique – called Solo Style – and dancers must perform in country, Latin, street and ballroom. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of hard work and dedication.

The team is independent and run by and for the students themselves. They

train at The Dance Centre studios in Bridgend and all the teachers and coaches volunteer, as well as parents and friends helping too! It really has a great community spirit.

The students are all local children and range from six years old to 20.

Last weekend, the team competed in the Welsh Masters heat in Port Talbot, and achieved nine first places, three second places and a third place across the categories.

They are now going on to compete in London, Ireland, and Stoke on Trent at further events.

**GEMMA WATKIN, The Dance Centre, Bridgend.**

## 'We must learn the lessons of Llandow blaze' – regional AM



**LEFT: Andrew RT Davies is pictured with Enzo Cleaning managing director Jamie Sneddon.**

**LESSONS must be learnt following the recent blaze at the Vale Industrial Estate in Llandow, South Wales Central AM Andrew R T Davies said this week.**

Among the businesses he visited was Enzo Cleaning, where he met managing director Jamie Sneddon and commented afterwards: "It was great to see local businesses doing so well, especially given the misfortune of having experienced two potentially devastating fires in quick succession."

Tributes were paid by several businesses to the local police and fire crews whose response mitigated the impact of a huge fire.

Mr Davies said it brought home the need to question the type of things held in storage: "Obviously, a fire on this scale raises questions over the type of things we hold in storage and how.

"Lessons must be learnt and combustible materials must be stored correctly and safety with better monitoring of the environment in which they are stored."

## NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

### The Aberthaw bees have got the power!

**SO begins another year. The apiary is not showing any activity at present, which is not surprising considering the weather that has been our lot of late.**

Should we get a dry day with a temperature in the region of 10°C, the bees will venture out but it will be cleansing flights only.

Body waste from the bees can remain contained for lengthy periods over winter but eventually they will exit the hive to answer the call of nature.

The past year did provide a summer, and this gave many pollinators the chance to carry out the task they are primarily designed for.

I have control of several apiaries and the variation in honey production and pollen gathering has been very marked. A good performance has come from the bees sited within the confines of Aberthaw Power Station.

I contacted the management in March of last year with a view to setting up an apiary there and their response was very positive. What did I require? What could they do to make it a success?

They were quite prepared to provide hives and bees if I needed them. However, I already had three colonies that were

requiring a site and this apiary has seen them flourish.

For their part, the power station management cleared an area that we agreed upon and laid down a firm base that accommodates the hives superbly. In addition, a shed was provided for on-site storage, plus several metal stands were made so that the hives are well clear of the ground.

The apiary is very secure and permission for me to access the apiary at any time was readily given on my pointing out that the weather would be the controlling factor regarding colony inspections.

For the future, no more than four colonies can be accommodated at this site, room to manoeuvre is a must for the beekeeper and, of course, for the bees.

I am well aware that a power station and its immediate environs are not to everyone's liking.

but the management team at Aberthaw have responded to a request and are doing their bit to try to check the decline of the honeybee.

The Fonmon Castle apiary is my prime site; the keeping of bees there was well established long before I put in an appearance. The beekeeper before me eventually had to bow out due to age, as I myself will have to one day.

It is to be hoped that we will still have honeybees in existence when that day comes along, and that the Boothby family will continue to provide an apiary at this most excellent of sites.

If we lose our pollinators, the planet will be the poorer for it. As has been stated, we as Homo Sapiens are the only species with the ability to change the planet! And we are certainly doing just that.

**HAROLD WILLIAMS**

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Slavery film is a brutal, harrowing and compelling effort



by GARETH JAMIESON  
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WHILE he may have only made two films thus far (the harrowing, yet gripping, *Hunger* and the raw *Shame*), Steve McQueen is fast developing a reputation for being one of the finest directors working today.

His latest film, *12 Years A Slave*, tells the true story of Solomon Northup (played by Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man who is abducted and sold into slavery.

Struggling to stay alive, Northup faces tests that will irrevocably change his life – but will there be salvation at

the end of it all?

While awards can hardly be deemed to reward worthy winners (more to reward those who have campaigned hard enough for them), seeing Steve McQueen stride to the stage at the weekend's Golden Globes to pick up the award for 'Best Motion Picture – Drama' was a more than deserved victory for the filmmaker; for *12 Years A Slave* is easily the most powerful, harrowing and devastating film seen in a long while.

It is a piece of work that manages to move you and leave you exhausted come the end credits.

That such a story could be true is a trou-

bling concept, especially when viewed through the prism of 21st Century society, but McQueen's skilled direction, and John Ridley's powerful script (based upon Northup's own recollection of events published in a book of the same name in 1853) bring the humanity to the forefront.

Northup's situation becomes more and more moving as he gets further and further away from the freedom that was his by right.

Some critics have noted the film almost riffs on the horror genre in terms of structure, but while this is true to a degree, the story chills far more effectively than most films within that genre, the nature of the protagonist and the travails he endures far more devastating than a masked psychopath with a big knife.

If McQueen's previous films have shown us the indomitable strength of the human spirit, and the darker side of man, then these two elements come together here; the former being exemplified by Northup's desire to survive and to hope for salvation, while the latter is perfectly essayed by characters who care not for Northup's claims, only what he can offer.

McQueen's direction doesn't soften the edges in any way; the brutality and danger of Northup's world is all too often shown, the effect and impact laid brutally bare, very often in long takes that truly convey the horror of what is unfolding.

The performances are superb, with Chiwetel Ejiofor's lead turn mesmerising in its nobility, majestic in the small moments of humanity afforded the character, and powerfully realised.

It's a pleasure to see the actor, who for too

long has been on the fringes in terms of his cinematic work, coming to the fore with what is an absolutely tremendous offering, the pain and sorrow, the belief and hope, perfectly etched upon his face.

Michael Fassbender's psychotic plantation owner is equally as mesmerising, the actor bringing a quietly explosive anger to the character and showing some truly horrifying touches, while Sarah Paulson, as his wife, plays quietly vindictive exceptionally well.

While Benedict Cumberbatch is stoic as a slaveowner with some semblance of a moral compass, Lupita Nyong'o, as the favoured slave of Fassbender, gives a heartbreaking turn, her innocence and will to live rapidly fading as the oppression of her life grows ever tighter, the actress conveying this wonderfully well.

It's rare for a film to be so deeply affecting as *12 Years A Slave*; is; certainly the subject matter weighs heavily, but it is through the medium of the performances and Steve McQueen's measured direction that the horrors are truly conveyed. The result is a truly powerful piece of cinema.

**VERDICT** - A powerfully harrowing, compelling piece of work, *12 Years A Slave* is a supreme effort from director Steve McQueen. Showing an unflinching eye for the subject matter, his hard-hitting direction is married to a raft of absolutely outstanding performances, particularly from Chiwetel Ejiofor and Lupita Nyong'o. A difficult watch it may be, but an essential one it certainly is. *Must-see.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Amistad* (1997), *Roots* (1977).

## WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA

### Grup Cymraeg The Bear

BOB bore Gwener am 10am mae grŵp o siaradwyr a dysgwyr Cymraeg yn cwrrd yn The Bear (yn y Cwtsh) i sgwrsio ac yn arfer eu Cymraeg.

Arweinydd y grŵp yw Rhiannon Williams, athrawes Gymraeg brofiadol o'r Bontfaen. Nid dosbarth yw hwn ond cyfle i ddefnyddio eich Cymraeg.

Croeso i unrhyw un sydd yn barod i geisio cynnal sgwrs trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

### Welsh language group

EVERY Friday morning at 10am, a group of Welsh language speakers and learners meet at The Bear (in the Cwtsh) Cowbridge to talk and practice their Welsh.

The group leader is Rhiannon Williams, an experienced Welsh teacher from Cowbridge.

This is not a class but an informal opportunity to use your Welsh.

There is a welcome for anyone of whatever level, who is willing to have a go at maintaining a conversation in Welsh.

### Penarth surgery

ELUNED Parrott, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery on January 17 at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm.

Residents who have any issues of concern are encouraged to go along. No appointment necessary.

### Ward surgery

VALE Labour and Town councillors for Buttrills and Court Wards Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and

Stuart Egan will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, January 18 from 10am till 11.30am in the meeting room of Barry Library, King's Square.

No appointment necessary.

### Advice surgeries

VALE Labour councillors Howard Hamilton, John Drysdale and Rhona Probert, and Barry town councillors Paula Hardy, Emma Pritchard and Charlotte Williams will be holding ward surgeries from 11am – 12pm on January 18 at 115 High Street, Barry; Cwm Talwg Community Centre; and Highlight Park Community Centre.

No appointment is necessary.

### Art society

MEETINGS of the Cowbridge Art Society recommence on January 23, with a practical session on portraiture, organised by Deirdre Schweitzer.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at

the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

### Charity coffee

MAYOR of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday, January 25, in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry at 10.30am to 12pm, in aid of the Mayor's charities, Ty Hapus and The JAM Fund. Entry fee £3.

For more information, call 01446 704921.

### Family service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, January 26 at 10am.

There will be worship items suitable for all ages centred on the story of Samson. Creche facilities are available and refreshments served afterwards. All are welcome.

## Caeffatri Bar & Grill

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Reviewed 5 November 2013

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## TY HAFAN WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D809.

● £2,000: 402094, Swansea.

● The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 972910, 491227, 224239,

665641, 256157, 401332, 790432,

878084, 489255, 416632, 867479,

686249, 606135, 961790, 715955,

543045, 515818, 948424, 816815,

717197.

● £5: 559034, 303092, 521611,

334154, 582535,

705609, 715338, 700616, 230484, 13500

9, 376061, 166787, 518137, 481716,

163255, 509658, 108771, 753589,

189009, 997648, 220809, 198144,

411936, 489481, 561368, 184765,

851897, 654419, 289546, 163046,

299264, 724479, 573617, 787086,

231863, 431910, 370939, 559728,

461190, 369313, 356274, 175951,

233035, 171497, 771724, 500669,

679914, 858492, 781819, 635898,

551509, 180695, 601027, 879589,

541071, 647018, 583990, 758673,

757434.

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## Securahome take over show site in Ewenny centre

**SECURAHOME**, one of Wales' leading designers of Luxury Windows, Doors, Conservatories and Orangeries, are proud to announce they have just taken over the show site at Ewenny Garden Centre.

This new expansion comes as Securahome celebrate their 20th trading year, in which the company have been successfully installing high quality products throughout the south Wales area from their head office and 2,000 square foot show centre in Swansea.

A visit to Securahome's new site at Ewenny Garden Centre will give you the chance to view three impressive conservatories, as well as demonstrating Securahome's new ultra thermally efficient Ambient® Window, a new composite door and products from their timber and aluminium ranges.

Nigel Hocking, the company's sales and marketing manager, explains: "This is not a short term venture for Securahome, we have been trying to identify a site in the area for over a year that would fit in with our quality brand."

"Ewenny Garden Centre's investment in its quality gardening and

home products, as well as Yankee Candle, Bomb Cosmetics, their luxury café The Coffee House and not forgetting, of course, the family favourite its fabulous NewMetal Zoo, we feel that this centre is destined to become one of Bridgend's best shopping experiences."

To cater for the increasing demand for Securahome's products within the Bridgend, Cardiff, and surrounding areas, Securahome plan major investment and are to build a luxury Orangery within the site in 2014.

With interest-free credit, and 15 per cent off, there is no better time to pay Securahome a visit and see what they can offer!

Take a stroll around Ewenny's luxury garden centre, or visit their coffee house for a delicious cappuccino or a spot of afternoon tea!

...And don't forget, you never know what animals you may see!

Securahome's Show site opened on October 1, 2013. Call us on 0500 21 22 24 for further information; go online at [www.securahome.co.uk](http://www.securahome.co.uk) or visit Ewenny's own site on [www.ewennygardencentre.com](http://www.ewennygardencentre.com).

## Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Ben Honour – 44 Westbourne Road, Penarth – Removal of rear fence and hedge and replace with fence.

Mr Duncan Barber – Llandough House, Llandough, Cowbridge – Single storey side-pitched roof extension.

Mr and Mrs Richard Coakley – 20 Penarth Marina, Penarth – Conversion of garage to habitable room and alteration works to front and rear elevations.

Mr and Mrs Graeme David – Land between Heritage Coast House and site of the former Sealawns Hotel, Main Road, Ogmore by Sea – Erection of four 4-bedroom dwellings and garages served by a private drive.

CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – Land at Cowbridge Road outside MoD St Athan – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway verge.

S Andrews & Son – Cafe Nia, Penny Lane, Cowbridge – New signage to shopping

arcade.

Mr C Davies – Yard adjacent Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major – Proposed new rural enterprise dwelling incorporating bed and breakfast in connection with Vale Carriages and change of use of land for two shepherd's huts for visitors.

Mr Peter Emery – Llanmaes House, Llanmaes – Minor internal alterations to create ancillary house-keeper's apartment utilising side entrance, bedroom and bathroom occupying north-east corner of the first floor of the existing building.

Mr Adrian Goulding –

70 Redbrink Crescent, Barry Island – Dormer windows and replacement of flat dormer roof with pitched roof.

Mr S Lines – Bryn Awel, The Lane, The Downs, St Nicholas – Single storey porch extension to front elevation plus replacement of two existing single storey rear/side conservatories with masonry construction extension.

Mr Richard Powell – 9 Rockrose Way, Cogan, Penarth – Dormer to rear elevation.

National Trust – Dyffryn Gardens, Dyffryn, Cardiff – A composting site is to be improved. The project is to improve the site by

putting down a concrete slab, open bays defined by walls, a drain to collect any excess moisture, a tank.

Mr David Frost – Former Fire Station, Court Road, Barry – Conversion of former fire station into eight flats.

Mr Philip Williams – 1 Is Y Coed, Wenvoe – Installation of photovoltaic solar panels on the rear south facing roof.

Crest Nicholson (SW) Ltd – Land at Penarth Heights, Penarth – Change of use of

amenity space opposite no 37, St Joseph's Mews, Penarth Heights (phase 1) to private garden land for Plot 288 (phase 2). Retention of fences and decking structures (retrospective).

Mr Kevin Brazier – Coetref, Welsh St Donats – New single storey extension to replace conservatory.

New first floor extension over part of existing flat roof. New extension to front of garage and alterations to roof over garage to include canopy.

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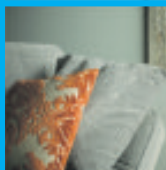
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## Who wants to build what, and where?

Dr RC Standley – **66 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Rebuild front boundary wall and alterations to front garden.

Mr D Summerhayes – **Stone Court, Bonvilston** – Construction of new garden wall.

CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – **Land at Redlands Road, Penarth** – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway footway.

Mr Shakoor Ahmed – **Barn at Welford Farm, Rhose** – Barn conversion to residential property.

Mr Malcolm Jones – **Cynma House, Cwinston** – Use of orchard as garden.

UWC Atlantic College – **The Cavalry Barracks, United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St Donats Castle** – Discharge of condition nos 2 and 3 of permission 2013/00839/LBC.

Wick Village Shop Ltd – **Post Office, St Brides Road, Wick** – Change of use of part of ground floor 90 sqm from Retail A1 to a Dwelling C3.

Mr and Mrs R Wilson – **Redholme, Llanbethery** – Construction of new access drive.

Mr Charles Brain – **Ty Bont, Peterston super Ely** – Removal

of rear garden room with a single storey utility room extension and extended garage with bedroom above.

Mrs Mair Morgan – **Plot of land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes** – Erection of one house and double garage at land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes (renewal of 2008/01477/FUL).

CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – **Land at Darren Hill, Cowbridge** – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway verge.

Mr and Mrs S Short – **Forty Farm, St Brides super Ely** – Demolition of existing farmhouse and attached detached outbuildings and erection of replacement dwelling, detached garaging and altered access.

Coast Hair Studio – **Fox Hollows, Slon Lane, Ogmere by Sea** – Change of use from C2a (residential home) to A1 (hair-dressers); there will be no exterior development.

Equine Rehabilitation Clinic Ltd – **Cherry Orchard Farm, Welsh St Donats** – Construct a single storey agricultural building to accommodate the Equine Rehabilitation Clinic and convert the first floor of the existing barn to two-bedroom flat for occupa-

tion by enterprise worker, all ancillary to the use of the existing farm and equine business.

Waitrose Ltd – **Waitrose Ltd, Palmerston Road, Barry** – Proposed horticulture unit.

CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – **Land at Elfed Avenue, Penarth** – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway verge.

Mrs Margaret Lewin – **18 Le Sor Hill, Peterston super Ely** – Ground floor extension to accommodate single bed/en-suite toilet/shower accommodation necessary on medical grounds.

St Brides Ltd – **North Road, Cowbridge** – Five new dwellings with associated gardens, landscaping, access, garages and car parking at land adjacent to Vale Forge, North Road.

Newydd Housing Association – **Haydock House, 1 Holton Road, Barry** – Change of use and conversion of building to provide residential accommodation in the form of 15 affordable dwellings, retail unit (use Class A1/use Class A2/use Class A3 Restaurant/Cafe), access arrangements and associated works.

Aspire Planning Ltd (part of Sanderson Weatherall LLP) –

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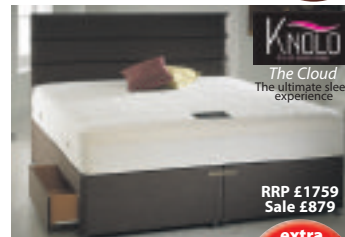
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Holy Trinity  
Presbyterian Church,  
Trinity Street  
Joanne - 01446 404897

**Llantwit Major 9.30am**  
Catholic Church,  
Ham Lane East  
Helen - 01446 750738

**Barry 7.30pm**  
Gibbonsdown  
Community Centre  
Nicky - 07703313619

**Llantwit Major 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
Our Lady & St Iltyd  
Church (Catholic)  
Ham Lane East  
Helen - 01446 750738

**Sully - 6.30pm**  
The Old School  
South Road  
Niki - 01446 740394

### WEDNESDAY

**Barry 4.45 & 6.45pm**  
St. Francis Millennium  
Centre, Park Road,  
Porth-y-Castell  
Annmarie - 01446 736534

**Barry - 6.00pm**  
Cadoxton  
Methodist Church  
Church Road  
Joanne - 01446 404897

**Penarth 9.30am & 11.30am**  
All Saints Church Hall  
Victoria Square  
Tracy - 07894 275853

**Penarth 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
All Saints Church Hall  
Victoria Square  
Tracy - 07894 275853

### THURSDAY

**Cowbridge - 9.30am**  
Cowbridge Rugby Club  
Rob - 07708941279

**Barry - 5.30pm**  
Highlight Park  
Community Centre,  
Barry  
Annmarie - 01446 736534

**Dinas Powys 5.30pm & 7.30pm**  
The Cabin by swimming  
pool, Hebron Hall  
Nicky - 07703313619

**Barry - 10.15am**  
St Helen's Church Hall  
Wynham Street  
Niki - 01446 740394

### FRIDAY

**Dinas Powys 9.30am**  
The Cabin by  
Swimming Pool,  
Hebron Hall  
Nicky - 07703313619

### NEW GROUP From Saturday 4th January

**Barry Saturday 9.30am**  
Cwm Talwg Community  
Centre, Cwm Parc, Cwm  
Talwg, Barry CF62 7QS.  
Wiggy - 07970 450694

### MONDAY

**Barry 5.30 & 7.30pm**  
New Jerusalem Church,  
Tynwydd Road, opp.  
library, Barry  
Lorraine - 01446 407002

**Rhoose 5.30 & 7.30pm**  
Celtic Way Community  
Centre, Celtic Way,  
Rhoose.  
Teresa - 07808 077312



scan here or visit the website to read Ali's story

**slimmingworld.ie**

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# Health, Beauty & Fitness



## Slimming World NO-HUNGER EATING PLAN

**I**F you'd love to lose the extra pounds after the festive season, or be a few dress sizes slimmer for your summer holidays, Slimming World can help you get the body you've always dreamed of.

With 44 years of experience in helping people lose weight and transform their lives, you'll find everything you need to make 2014 your year!

At Slimming World, you will learn to fill up on every day healthy foods, with no counting calories, measuring or weighing portions.

You'll lose weight

beautifully and never feel hungry. You will receive all the encouragement you need at friendly weekly groups run by trained consultants, who totally understand the misery that being overweight can bring.

Between groups, you get free access to our members-only website, packed with recipes and advice.

Why not visit one of our group this week?

There is no obligation to join, so you can just come along and feel the wonderful atmosphere in our groups, as well as finding out more regarding our amazing plan.

(SEE OUR ADVERT ON PAGE 18)

## Line-Dance cures January blues!

**A**RE you looking for a new hobby which is:

Fun!  
Helps give your brain a workout!

Contains great music!

You can come on your own or with a friend!

A fantastic way to make new friends!

Never the same class twice, so you won't get bored!

First lesson is free!!!

If you say yes to all of the above, then why not try Line Dancing?

Line Dancing is a fun way to exercise the body and brain without realising it. It's not the old 'Ye-ha' and 'Dose-doe' perception that many people have.

Modern Line Dancing is all about dressing up either in smart/casual wear or just regular jeans/trousers and tops, learning dances to all kinds of music from your Lady Antebellum (Country) to Pitbull and

Gary Barlow (pop) as well as Latin and Irish music.

Line dancing is for all ages, whether you are 9 or 99, and there are classes for all levels from beginners to advanced.

Lynda has over 18 years' experience and has competed in many international and national competitions in Solo, Pro-Am, Quad and Team events.

While competing in Nashville, Tennessee, Lynda met her husband Matt Jenkins, who was from Crumlin, south Wales.

"If I hadn't taken up line dancing, I would never have met Matt and I wouldn't have made so many lifelong friends."

"Line dancing is a fantastic way to boost yourself and blow away those January blues!"

For more information please contact Lynda on 07738119637.

## LINE DANCING

### FREE Taster Session

for all new beginners/improvers/intermediates with this advert.

Classes are held on Mondays at Margaret Alexander Community Centre, Barry:

7-8pm Beginners;

8-9.15pm Improver/Intermediate.

Tuesdays: BP Sully 7-8pm Beginners,

8-9.30pm Improver/Intermediate.

For more information, please contact Lynda on 07738 119637.



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**'I WILL walk your dog' is a real success story. Started nine years ago by animal lover, Ian Gibbons, pet care has taken on a whole new dimension.**

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Ian will call and collect your pet in a fully-equipped van containing air conditioning, pet treats and luxury facilities, and give them their exercise.

Ian has experience in

animal psychology and pet care and has previous experience of working in kennels.

The service is available anywhere in the Vale of Glamorgan, with customers in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Barry,

Ogmore, Bridgend, Cardiff and further afield. Ian also offers pet-sitting for cats.

Telephone 'I will walk your dog' on 07967 562392 or visit [www.iwillwalkyourdog.com](http://www.iwillwalkyourdog.com).

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Only £8.50 per hour per dog walk, or £13.50 for two dogs.  
We go to lovely beaches and parks.



## INTRODUCING THE INMAN ALIGNER...

**U**NIL now, the alternatives to straightening front teeth involved either long and expensive orthodontic treatments, or destructive and expensive restorative treatments - such as veneers or crowns.

Even ultrathin veneers involve heavy reduction of natural teeth when used to align crowding or protrusion.

But with the arrival of the Inman Aligner, all that has changed. It is a cost-effective, removable orthodontic appliance that moves teeth in a fraction of the time of other systems.

It aligns crowded or protruding anterior teeth with two opposing spring loaded aligner bars. This provides gentle but continuous pressure over a large range of movement.

Surprisingly, this gentle pressure is

the quickest way to move teeth, but it also makes treatment very safe and kind to teeth.

People love the speed of treatment and it's changing the face of dentistry as we know it. The average treatment time is only four to 16 weeks, and now with concerns over economy, it's a more justifiable expense.

Only certified Inman Aligner dentists can provide this, and Dr Owain Joynson, of Porthkerry Dental Centre, has achieved this certification.

Dr Joynson said: "The Inman Aligner is the greatest innovation in dentistry of recent years. It's fast, affordable and kind to teeth. It really is the best way to straighten crowded front teeth."

For further details, please visit [www.porthkerrydental.co.uk](http://www.porthkerrydental.co.uk). To book an appointment, contact Porthkerry Dental Care on 01446 735395.

## Porthkerry Dental Centre

Straight teeth... fast.

Improve your smile with the

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CERTIFIED USER

Simply the fastest way to straighten front teeth



"The Inman Aligner was so fast and so comfortable, I honestly couldn't believe it... brilliant!"

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Dr. Owain B Joynson, BDS (Wales) 2 Porthkerry Road, Barry, Vale of Glam CF62 7AX  
Tel. 01446 735395 email: [porthkerrydental@btconnect.com](mailto:porthkerrydental@btconnect.com) [www.porthkerrydental.co.uk](http://www.porthkerrydental.co.uk)

## Jones & Jones Optometrists, specialists in family eyecare

**B**ETWEEN 75 - 90 per cent of all your sensory information about the surrounding environment is visual.

The process of converting light into an electrical signal that your brain can interpret is a fairly complex one that involves millions of highly-specialised cells found only in the eye.

Despite this, many people take their vision for granted and neglect their eyecare.

Considering the prevalence of serious eye disease rockets from only 0.3 per cent in the under-50s to over 25 per cent of the over-70s, getting a regular eye check is really important.

For the over-60s, the main three culprits are glaucoma, cataract and macular degeneration. All of these eye diseases are treatable if caught early enough, but the problem is that they have a gradual onset and tend to creep up on people. By the time vision is noticeably affected, substantial irreversible damage can occur.

Led by Dr Adrian Jones, one of the leading optometrists in the UK, Jones & Jones Optometrists are able to provide specialist eyecare that is currently not available in most high street opticians. As well as ordinary private, and NHS sight tests, we specialise in:

- Glaucoma diagnosis and treatment.
- Acute eye problems, such as red eyes and flashing lights and floaters.
- Watery and dry eye assessments.
- DVLA drivers' assessments.
- Contact lens fitting and aftercare.

Where most opticians have to refer their patients to hospital, Dr Jones is able to provide a comprehensive, gold standard diagnosis, treatment and follow up for common eye problems.

In conjunction with our specialist clinical services, we also offer a personalised dispensing service with a huge range of frames.

So, whether you are on a budget or want something a bit special from our extensive designer collections, there is always something to suit.

We only supply high performance lenses from top manufacturers such as Hoya, Nikon and Shamir.

Our direct computer links with the manufacturing plants mean we can show you exactly what your lenses will look like before ordering, and provide a real time estimate for delivery.

If you or someone you know is concerned about an eye problem, why not get specialist help and advice? Book an appointment on 01446 400015, or visit us online at [www.jonesandjones.org.uk](http://www.jonesandjones.org.uk)

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# Health, Beauty & Fitness



## HYPNOTHERAPY CAN HELP WHEN 'THINGS GET UNDER YOUR SKIN'

**I**T is often said that our skin is a mirror image of our internal self: an imbalance within the nervous system may often be reflected in our skin.

It can be a signal of a reaction to a trigger and, although treating the symptom may be effective, it is important to address the trigger as well.

This is why hypnosis for skin conditions can be productive.

These types of condition can have distressing effects on self esteem and confidence, even result-

ing in avoiding social interaction.

If you are prepared to work towards change, Solution Focused Hypnotherapy can help tackle confidence and anxiety issues which can exacerbate symptoms and create a vicious circle.

If your medical practitioner confirms there is no physiological basis for your condition, and you would like to discuss a free initial consultation, contact Sue Pitman on 07795 964066 or [www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.co.uk](http://www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.co.uk).

## Dawn Clinic moves into its third year

**W**ITH both new and regular customers enjoying the comfortable, clean and welcoming environment, Dawn Clinic provides a private appointment-only health and advanced beauty clinic.

Dawn has been involved in nursing for over 20 years, specialising in skin care, and now devotes all her time to the clinic.

Dawn is fully registered to administer all prescriptive medications and aesthetic treatments; these range from Botox to advanced facial sculpting.

The clinic works with Cosmetic Surgery Partners of London, led by world-renowned reconstructive and cosmetic surgeon, Miles Berry, offering free consultations and post-operative care.

Dawn is committed to providing the most suitable and safe treatments to meet your individual requirements.

**esthetic**  
**DAWN CLINIC**  
Awaken to a more youthful you  
3 Areas of botox **only £200**  
Dermal fillers and Sculptra **20% off**  
Now stockists of the cosmaceutical range **Jan Marini**

DAWN AESTHETIC CLINIC  
12 York Place, Barry CF62 7ED  
T: 01446 732 286 • [www.dawnclinic.com](http://www.dawnclinic.com)

## Friendly Pilates classes in Barry

**P**ILATES classes are held at St Nicholas Hall and the Millennium Centre in Barry, where classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester and are small and friendly.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility, suppleness and better posture. Classes are available for complete beginners, up to intermediates.

Sharon is a registered osteopath, working in Barry with people with all sorts of musculo-skeletal pain – from minor sports injuries to bad backs, arthritic aches and pains.

One-to-one Pilates sessions are also available, beginning with a postural assessment, followed by individual Pilates tuition. Over a series of lessons, a personalised Pilates programme is built up to be practiced at home.

To join, or for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 085606, or see [www.barrypilates.co.uk](http://www.barrypilates.co.uk).

## Romilly Osteopathy & Pilates Clinic Barry Pilates Classes

### Beginners Pilates

Mondays 9.15am & 5.30pm  
Fridays 7.15pm

### Intermediate Pilates

Mondays 9.15am & Fridays 6pm  
At St Nicholas Hall & Millenium Centre  
Sharon - 07830 085606

[www.barrypilates.co.uk](http://www.barrypilates.co.uk)

## CARDIFF HYPNOTHERAPY SOLUTIONS

Give your potential the chance to shine through

Contact Sue Pitman HPD, DHP, MNCH (Reg) on 07795 964066 / 029 20654893

Confidential free initial consultation with no obligation at:

Barefoot Studio, Llandow nr Cowbridge.  
The Business Centre, Barry.  
Wellfield Osteopathic Clinic, Cardiff.  
[www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com](http://www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com)

## Help kickstart weight loss

**W**ORKING for Forever Living is an excellent prospect, fantastic products all based on Aloe Vera, which is grown, packed and distributed all within the Forever Company.

If you are looking for a kickstart to weight loss, try our Clean 9 System, which is a detox/weight management programme excellent for losing all that weight and bloatedness gained at Christmas!!

We have products ranging from sports nutrition, life balance animal care, to excellent creams, lotions for anything from eczema, psoriasis, IBS and strained muscles!

Contact me on 07789 075104 or [nickyjervis@btinternet.com](mailto:nickyjervis@btinternet.com) for further information.

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## We can help you put your best foot forward

**S**TEP into 2014 with comfortable feet that show they are cared for... Vale Podiatry and Chiroprody will be pleased to help you solve all your foot problems.

Whatever the problem, Angela and Sarah Batrick are fully qualified and registered podiatrists and will be able to help.

We treat all ages and are particularly sensitive to the nervous or embarrassed patient.

We combine many years' experience in private and NHS clinics with up-to-date procedures and training.

We look forward to meeting you at either of our Cowbridge or Llantwit Major clinics.

We also offer home appointments to those people who are unable to attend due to illness or disability.

In addition, we have an evening clinic in Llantwit Major for those who are working during the day.

## Footcare for All - Friendly, Professional Podiatrists

**ValePodiatry**

Angela Batrick  
Dip.Pod.M.M.Ch.S.

Sarah Batrick  
BSc (Hons) Pod.M.M.Ch.S

### Our treatments include:

- Nail Cutting
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- Verruca Treatment
- Nail Surgery
- Diabetic Footcare
- Bio-mechanical Assessment
- Orthotics



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Newport House, Commercial Street  
Llantwit Major CF61 6RB

Call: 01446 771058

23 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AE  
Email: [hello@valepodiatry.co.uk](mailto:hello@valepodiatry.co.uk)  
[www.valepodiatry.co.uk](http://www.valepodiatry.co.uk)

## LOOKING TO ADVERTISE?

Contact us on 01446 774484 or email: [gemsales@tindelnnews.co.uk](mailto:gemsales@tindelnnews.co.uk)

## Natalie's trek is to raise funds for River Africa

**A** NURSING student at Cardiff University, Natalie Heywood, is set to embark on the challenge of a lifetime, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro – in a bid to raise funds for River Africa.

The UK-based charity is committed to the construction of a 'Mother and Baby Hospital' in Zimbabwe.

The GEM has featured the River Africa charity in the past – one of its stalwart campaigners, Daniel Nadzo, who lives in Bridgend, has collected funds for it across the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs.

Mount Kilimanjaro is the world's highest free-standing mountain.



ABOVE:  
Natalie Heywood.

Natalie hopes to raise over £2,995 by taking part in River Africa's 'Courage to make a Difference' Kilimanjaro challenge.

She will be collecting donations from members

of the public tomorrow (Friday, January 17), and on Saturday, January 24, at the University Hospital of Wales from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Natalie, who will have a stall in the lobby, decided to take part in the trek and raise funds after speaking to Ian Powell, a volunteer who was fundraising for River Africa at a Tesco Extra store.

During the course of the conversation, she learned of chronic poverty, scarcity of resources, HIV/AIDS pandemic, an underperforming economy and healthcare system which is denying expectant mothers access to antenatal care.

To sponsor Natalie, go to <http://www.justgiving.com/natalieheywood>

## HINENI: Holocaust survivors and immigrants tell their story

**T**O commemorate the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27, the Vale Council has worked with Butetown History and Arts Centre and Cardiff Reform Synagogue to produce the 'Hineni' cultural, art and history project.

'Hineni' means 'Here I am' in Hebrew and is used culturally as a strong statement of expression that certainly describes the exhibition on show.

Combining powerful, empathetic photographic portraits with compelling life stories, this exhibition explores questions of memory, place and identity.

The near life-sized subjects that address us are Holocaust survivors, post-war immigrants and people from generations of families that have lived in Wales, England and Scotland.

They are members of the Cardiff Reform Synagogue, but their faces and experiences bear witness to our common humanity.

Vale county borough councillor Gwyn John said: "I am impressed with the quality and impact of

these larger than life images that greet you as you enter the gallery, drawing you toward the person and their individual story."

Dr Glenn Jordan, the photographer and curator, has spent nearly 30 years exploring the lives of immigrants and minorities in Wales and Ireland.

Dr Jordan said: "My photographic work, created in collaboration with the local communities, probes questions of history, culture, identity and power. It invites dialogue and understanding."

Colin Heyman, the project director, said: "This exhibition shows a multiplicity of stories and is about showing our diversity in Wales."

"The exhibition enables people to reflect on many facets of belonging and identity."

The exhibition is at the Art Central Gallery, Town Hall, Barry, CF63 4RW Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am – 4pm until Saturday February 8. Entrance is free and the exhibition is suitable for all ages.

For more information, visit [www.valeofglamorga.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorga.gov.uk) and follow the Art Central 'What's on' pages, or visit [www.hineni.org.uk](http://www.hineni.org.uk)



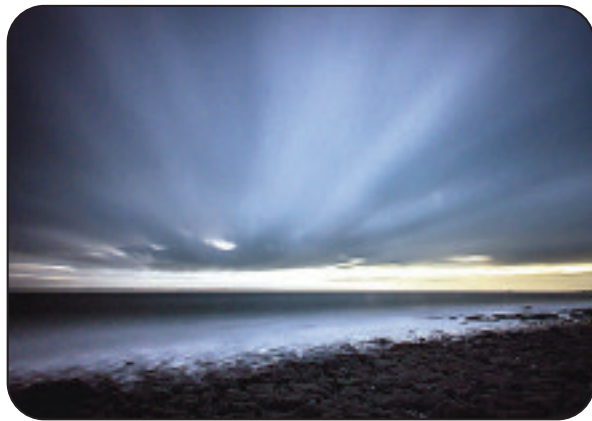
Des Gollen with image of his wife, Ina Gollen.

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Follow us: @gem\_news



# The calm – and beauty – before the storm...

**RIGHT:**  
This beautiful, brooding portrait of the Bristol Channel was taken by local photographer Gareth Williams at Rhooose Point beach. He explained: "The image was taken the day before the storms and tidal surge. What you can see are the storm clouds rolling in – sort of the calm before the storm – as they await to release their payload of rain!"



## 'PLEASE THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE VISITING HOSPITAL' Health chief's warning in battle with norovirus

**THREE wards have been closed in a Vale hospital as health chiefs fight the spread of the norovirus.**

The public is being asked to avoid visiting hospitals unless absolutely necessary in a bid to halt the infection.

Three wards have been closed to visitors at University Hospital Llandough, with part of one closed at the University Hospital of Wales, following suspected cases of the bug.

Dr Eleri Davies, the director for infection prevention and control at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said that while norovirus is in general an unpleasant 48-hour illness, it can be more serious for those in hospital.

She said: "We are now seeing diarrhoea and vomiting infections in the community. With some infections also confirmed in the hospitals; this inevitably leads to instances of ward closures.

"It is very difficult to stop the spread of norovirus once it is in hospital – so we are asking the public to help support us by restricting visiting to what is absolutely necessary.

"If you are visiting friends or family in hospital, then please heed the advice at the entrances to wards and practice good hand hygiene."

Dr Davies also added that soap and water was the most effective way to wash hands and defend against norovirus.

As well as spreading quickly and being unpleasant for sufferers, the knock-on effect of outbreaks of norovirus for health services can be significant, leading to disruption in normal patient admission and treatment flows.

Dr Davies said taking simple precautions could help minimise the spread of the infection and urged those who have had diarrhoea or vomiting to wait until they are symptom free for at least

two days before visiting friends and family in hospital or returning to work or school.

"We do have very robust procedures in place for managing norovirus, but the best defence is to avoid bringing it into hospitals in the first instance, so we would really ask everyone to think carefully before visiting hospitals over the next few weeks.

"If you are suffering from symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting and need to see a GP or attend hospital, please inform your surgery or hospital about your symptoms, ideally by telephone before you attend."

If you or a family member has a sickness bug, find out more on how to manage the symptoms and what to do by checking out the NHS Direct website at: [www.nhs-direct.wales.nhs.uk/doiyouself/symptomchecker/vomiting/](http://www.nhs-direct.wales.nhs.uk/doiyouself/symptomchecker/vomiting/); or the NHS Choices website at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx)

## GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

### Fossil fuels turn back the clock

**A CENTURY ago, of the major industrialised cities of the world, London had the least developed and least efficient electricity system, resulting in more expensive electricity prices than other leading cities and continued use of gas lighting.**

The 1882 Electric Lighting Act, was just one example of how politicians in the House of Commons helped to preserve the pre-electricity status quo for power and traction in London for many years.

Those who had invested in the gas utilities, including local authorities, were desperate to protect their investments from the diffusion of electricity.

David Lloyd George, when president of the UK Board of Trade, is quoted as saying to Charles Merz (the pioneer of electric power distribution in the UK), in explanation as to why the UK lagged behind industrial competitors in the uptake of the latest electrical technologies: "My dear young friend, this is not a question of engineering, it is a question of politics."

Innovative-entrepreneurs of today, like Charles Merz a century ago, are up against powerful vested interests, who have no vision of a better future and work

only to preserve the interests of a few – with no regard to the potential environmental, social and economic costs that we all must bear.

Already, we have technologies that can reduce domestic water and energy use by 70 – 90 per cent, and we can build new homes that need little, if any, heating.

However, these technologies are a threat to powerful individuals and corporations who have organised the Government in support of fracking and the continued excessive use of fossil fuels.

They are not just protecting the £100m invested in fracking in the UK, but also the billions of pounds invested in other fossil fuel related technologies, skills and infrastructures.

Too many elected politicians (supported and influenced by 'vested interests') are supporting those desperate to protect their foolish investments in fossil fuels that are rooted firmly in the past, in clear preference to those with visions of a thriving society without reliance on fossil fuels and the associated emissions.

Britain cannot progress when still investing in fossil fuels.

**Ian Perry, St Nicholas.**

### Harry made it to the ripe old age of 24!



**ABOVE:** Long-haired Harry, who lived to the age of 24!

**THE letter from Mr Howells about his cat, Jasmine, who is 20, struck a chord with me, as we have recently lost our own cat, Harry, who died at the age of 24.**

Harry was a long-haired Norwegian breed, and came to us from a farm in Bonvilston. He was a delight to be with and, according our local vet, he was the oldest cat in the Vale!

**Roy Chappell  
Llantwit Major**

### Age Cymru, voice for the elderly...

**LAST winter, 1,900 people – most of them over 65s, died in Wales from preventable cold-related illnesses – a 50 per cent increase on the previous winter.**

It was also the time when older people in Wales were statistically more likely to cut back on their heating and eating than those anywhere else in the UK.

In 2013, thousands of older people across Wales – many with conditions such as dementia, were conned out of their money by dodgy doorstep traders and scam mail.

Ill-health was also a problem for over 65s in Wales last year, with the Welsh Health Survey 2012 showing that 62 per cent of over-65s in Wales were overweight or obese.

Age Cymru is the national older people's charity for Wales and it is our mission to improve the lives of older people. In 2014, we are working with our local charity partners across Wales to make sure that no stone is left unturned to make this ambition a reality.

We feel it is unacceptable that older people can be targeted by criminals seeking to take advantage of them.

• Email your letters to:  
[gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)  
including your FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER

This is why, during the next 12 months, Age Cymru will be campaigning to make sure older people receive increased protection from abuse and financial scams through our 'Scams and Swindles' campaign and dementia project.

We feel strongly that every community in Wales should be an age-friendly place which allows older people to feel valued, independent and be safe from harm.

Age Cymru will continue to support older people's groups in 2014 as they campaign to have a voice and choice on the issues affecting their lives.

We will also be encouraging the Welsh Government to adopt the concept of age-friendly communities as a cornerstone of all its public policy decisions.

**Ian Thomas, Cardiff, Chief Executive, Age Cymru.**

### FREE HEALTH CHECK

**TO help improve health and diet, Age Connect Cardiff and Vale are holding a FREE health check at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on January 22 (11.30am to 12.15pm). Contact 01446 732385 for further information. No appointment needed.**

## Who wants to build what, and where?

**Land adjacent to Coed Bychan Farm, Llanharan, CF72 9NG** – erection of one wind turbine and associated works (resubmission).  
**Mr Andrew Tipping – Heol Las, Wick** – agricultural equipment shed.  
**Vale Council – Albert Road Primary School, Penarth** – internal alterations and replacement of two windows.  
**Mr D Thomas – 8 Maillards Haven, Penarth** – rear ground floor extension 4,000mm depth from original main house plus conversion of part of existing garage with new window to front.

**Mr Jonathan Graham – 46 Coleridge Avenue, Penarth** – single storey rear extension, installation of bifolding doors to rear elevation and installation of large roof light to flat roof.  
**Barclays Bank plc – Barclays Bank plc, 2 Windsor Road, Penarth** – installation of enclosure around rear fire escape and reorganisation of car park.  
**Ms Sara Moverly – Orchard Cottage, Leekwith, Cardiff** – single storey rear extension; front/side ground floor kitchen extension; new roof over kitchen, first floor en-suite bathroom extension on the front removing rear porch.  
**Clearwater Property Company Ltd – 67-69 Dochdwy Road (shopping**

**parade), Llandough** – renewal of application ref 2007/00751/FUL; 18 self-contained residential units over three storeys to replace demolished mixed-use building.

**Mr Jamie Rice – Ger Y Mor, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea** – construct carport for three cars/external secure storage. Convert garage to home gymnasium. Adjust driveway to provide landscaped beds. Minor internal alterations. Extend master dressing room. Replace existing substantial windows with weather resistant glazing. Render existing facing brickwork.

**Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry** – internal alterations at second floor level.

**Mr Moon – Carwyn, St Brides Major** – two storey side extension with lower ground floor garage created, single storey front and rear extensions and refurbishment of existing house.

**Wilkinson Group – Wilkinsons, Holton Road, Barry** – numerals, fascia panels and signs.

**Infinite Renewables Ltd – Hare Grove Farm, Laleston** – one wind turbine with maximum blade height of 45m and capacity of 250kw; with associated works.

**Mr David Muxworthy – 24 Robinswood Close, Penarth** – alter-

ation and extension to existing dormer roof to create two bedrooms and conversion of existing bedroom to bathroom.

**Mr Mark Jones – Dryslwyn, Trepit Road, Wick** – demolish existing house/garage. Construct replacement dwelling and garage.

**Mr Hywel Jones – Ty Gwyn, Pen Y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – first floor extension to include new roof. Single storey rear extension.

**Mr Liam O'Shea – 2, Coastguard Cottages, Llantwit Major** – extend existing kitchen with an infill construction.

**Dr Xavier Escofet – 42 Llwyn Passat, Portway Marina, Penarth** – proposed garage conversion and erect a balcony.

**Mr Ian Ryley – Byways, Twynncyn, Dinas Powys** – new detached garage. Cenin Ltd – site of former water tower, former Stormy Down Aerodrome, Bridgend – provision of one wind turbine on site of former water tower.

**Mr Kevin Knowles – Fernlea, Port Road West, Barry** – construct entrance porch to front elevation.

**Mrs Andrea Harry – 1 Vale View Crescent, Llandough, Penarth** – single storey side extension to dwelling to provide garage, wc, utility and study.

**Mr H Navidi – Mill Barn, Boverton**

– change of use involving new access track to Barn 3 and retention of parking area to provide off-street spaces for Barns 1 and 2.

**Mr D Summerhayes – Stone Court, Bonvilston** – proposed two storey annexe containing gym and granny flat.

**Mr and Mrs C Pryde – 24 Evenlode Avenue, Penarth** – replacement dwelling.

**Mr Johnathan Oxenham – 44 Marine Drive, Barry** – proposed side and rear extensions plus internal alterations to remodel the dwelling.

**Taylor Wimpey plc – Land south of Cog Road, Sully** – residential development with associated access and associated works.

**Mr Roy Candy – 48 Dock View Road, Barry** – change of use – dwelling to two residential units.

**Mr and Mrs Jones – 39 Shakespeare Avenue, Penarth** – demolish existing lean-to garage/shed and construct new double storey side extension, comprising a garage and upstairs bedroom.

**Ian Morris – 7 Castle Court, Llantwit Major** – extension to side of property and demolition of existing garage with small extension.





# BRIDES & GROOMS



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## DON'T ECONOMISE WHEN IT COMES TO WEDDING PHOTOS!

**I**f your wedding budget is starting to climb, and you need to cut a few corners to save cash, there's a temptation to ask your friend to get behind the camera, writes **SHAWN HICKMAN**. Wrong move!

Never let your friend, even if he's your very best friend, or even a close family member, take responsibility for the photography at your wedding.

There is so much more involved in capturing a wedding photographically or on video than your friend will think about.

Sound, lighting, positioning, framing, story-line, style – each of these broad categories has numerous elements so that if one thing is 'out' the whole thing might not look or sound right.

Friends can leave things to the last moment – and are they going to have the best equipment? The less they know, the less they will show up with.

Holding a camera and capturing a wedding and reception is not like being there enjoying the moment – and a friend wants to enjoy a wedding.

It is work and you

need to concentrate on what you are doing such as the focus, how the shot looks, or sounds, if a digital video camera is being used – and then where you need to be next.

The bottom line is that for the photographer there is very little time to enjoy the wedding which is what friends are there for.

Lastly, if something should go wrong it could possibly ruin a friendship.

What happens if shots are out of focus or the film cuts someone out?

Make sure you book a professional – then you can relax, secure in the knowledge, that one of your major wedding headaches is out of the way.

## The right wedding invitation can add that special touch

**I**t doesn't matter whether you are planning to have a large or a small wedding, you still have to send out invitations, writes **MIKE LINDSEY**.

For larger wedding parties, you can order your invitations through the wedding planning department at a store, although going direct to a printer might secure you the best price.

Of course, you can always choose to make your own invitations which is also nice, unique and personal.

When it comes to home crafted wedding invitations, some people

even use calligraphy to add style and elegance to their invitations.

When you make your invitations by hand, you can address each one individually so that you can add unique invitations to your guests that are addressed specifically to them.

When you hand make your invitations, one of the beauties is that you can personalise them with a note, poem or verse.

Most importantly, you must put RSVP on the invitation – standing for *repondez si l'vous plait* – so that people are obliged to reply to the invite, enabling you to work out numbers.

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# BRIDES & GROOMS - A SPECIAL GEM FEATURE



## For the groom, there is plenty of choice when it comes to the ring

Once upon a time the plain gold band was the only choice for a man's wedding ring.

While brides-to-be deliberated over filigree,

gem stones and other detailing, grooms simply told the jeweller their finger size and went on their way.

But times have changed. Today grooms have a host of options, from intricately detailed

to customised creations.

Wedding rings come in a variety of styles, metals and finishes to fit the personality of every groom. The trend today is definitely about individual style.

While gold will always be a popular choice, other metals are currently gaining favour. Platinum, a silver-coloured precious metal, is a big trend at the moment. In recent years, according to Platinum Guild International, the number of brides and grooms choosing platinum rings has reached 40 per cent.

A matt finish is popular, as it gives a subdued, modern look. While

more expensive than gold, it is also more durable, making it a good choice for those who work with their hands.

No longer just a girl's best friend, many grooms are adding diamonds to their rings. These rings give just a bit of sparkle, often in a style that complements the bride's ring.

Most popular are 'channel-set' or 'gypsy-set' stones that offer a flush mounting and secure fit.

For a personal look, many grooms are adding special details. Custom engraving is a great option for grooms who want a ring unique to

them.

Many grooms unaccustomed to wearing jewellery are discovering the newest ring metal, titanium. This lightweight, durable metal comes in either satin or polished finishes, often with an accent stripe of gold. Titanium rings provide an up-to-date look at an affordable price.

Expert advice for men is to look for a ring that not only matches your taste, but also your life. Intricate carvings will catch debris, and may not be a good choice for those who engage in messy work.

Matt finishes tend to show scratches more quickly. Remember that some people are sensitive to metals and may have skin allergies that make one metal a more desirable choice than another.

Take your time when selecting a ring.

Remember, long after the tuxedos have been returned and the limo ride has ended, your wedding ring will be with you each moment to remind you of your lasting commitment.

ARA Content

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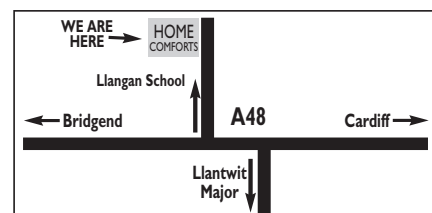
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## AFC lands a new sponsorship deal

THE Blacksmiths Arms have become the main sponsor for Llantwit Major AFC and so to seal the deal, all of the first team squad enjoyed a sizzling night of local home cooked steaks which set them up for wearing their new kit on Saturday.

The committee and players thank Mike and all the staff at the Blacksmith Arms for his continued support. Pictured are Mike the landlord and his wife presenting the shirt to Llantwit Major AFC chairman, John Guy.

DJ



## LOCAL BOXER JAMES MAKES HISTORY!

LLANTWIT MAJOR boxer James Rees made history on a show hosted by Victoria Park ABC at Cottrell Park golf club.

This show was to mark the 50th year of former boxer Eddie Avoth turning professional; it was also to be the first show in Wales for 29 years to feature contests where senior boxers would compete without head guards.

However, James took it all in his stride. He was up against Tim Newing of the host club, and the bout started with both lads landing big shots from the first bell; it was a very evenly matched bout with the first round being shared.

The second round was also close with both lads taking big shots, but James opened up a narrow lead; he was feeling the effects of the fast pace and was breathing heavily, but after a few choice words and some encouragement from his corner, he went into the last round showing grit and determination.

Both boxers gave their all, boxing each other to a standstill, and former champion Nicky Piper, who was ring announcer for the night, congratulated both boxers on a fantastic first bout; all three judges marked James as their winner.

MD

## Barry Bees impress in first game of the year

BARRY BEES entertained St Peters RFC on a cold and blustery morning at the Reservoir Fields in their first game of the New Year.

The Bees started at a blistering pace and outside half Cian Anderson scythed through the visitors' defence from the first scrum. This was quickly followed by another from Cian, as Barry looked to be running rampant.

However St Peters responded well and scored a lovely try after a slick move through the backs. The quality of the rugby was good from both sides, both of whom were determined to play expansive rugby despite the blustery conditions.

Cian added another excellent try, after a great run by Cole Saunders, to extend Barry's lead again, but with the final play of the half St Peters went over in the corner to keep themselves in contention.

The Bees were on fire in the second half, with the whole team contributing to an outstanding performance. Cole opened the scoring with a powerful run, after a set move from a scrum.

This opened the floodgates. Cian soon added another, with more outrageous dummying. Debutant Jake Frost then

smashed his way over to keep the tries flowing. Cole added another after a brilliant chase of a long kick from Cian.

Centre Jacob Pereira finished another flowing move, as he bulldozed his way over the line. Full back Spencer Williams then danced his way through the visitors' defence for another excellent try; this was quickly followed by a great interception try from hooker Rhys Lloyd.

The Bees did not relent and continued to play excellent rugby against an increasingly dispirited St Peters. Cole scored another well worked try from a set move, after a great pass from Cian.

The scoring was completed by winger Ryan Stephenson who squeezed over with the last play of the game, to make the final score 60-10.

This was a great team performance, and bodes well for the rest of the season; this is the standard that the boys now need to maintain.

*Squad:* Isaac McBride, Rhys Lloyd, Jake Frost, Ethan Watkins, Charlie Bale, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Jacob Pereira, Cole Saunders, Spencer Williams, Joe Ryan, Ryan Stephenson, Cameron Foster.

JM

## Barry darts league round-up

THE Wanderers run of form continued with a 5-4 victory over the Billy Ghosts.

In a tight game between the Windorsides, the Dartonians came out on top, beating the Nomads by 5 games to 4. Kevin Sheppard hit a 180 during the match. The Poachers had a comfortable 7-2 victory over the BFC Allsorts. The league leaders,

Cwm Talwg, profited on some poor finishing by the Park Weasels to claim a 5-4 win.

First division leaders, The Throws of Despair, traveled to Rhoeus to claim a 2-7 win over the Cambrian Runways.

The second placed Mariners kept up the pressure with a 7-2 victory over Pat's 26s. The Caddy Cons Raiders beat the Starlets 9-0 to remain in third place.

RL

## Barrivale bridge results

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club, January 7:

1st Mark Roderick & Trevor Towers 61.81 per cent; 2nd Helen Jordan & Judith Owen 55.56; 3rd Sean Macdougall & Ann Macdougall and Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 51.39; Helen & Judith won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

### THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

#### Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01209/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Removal of rear fence and hedge and replace with fence
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	44, Westbourne Road, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01229/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Rebuild front boundary wall and alterations to front garden
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	66, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01238/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Removal of rear garden room with a single storey utility room extension and extended garage with bedroom above
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Ty Bont, Peterston Super Ely
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01239/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Erection of one house and double garage at land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes (Renewal of 2008/01477/FUL)
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Plot of land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01247/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Five new dwellings with associated gardens, landscaping, access, garages and car parking at land adjacent to Vale Forge, North Road;
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	North Road, Cowbridge

#### Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01218/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Minor internal alterations to create ancillary housekeepers apartment utilising side entrance, bedroom and bathroom occupying north east corner of the first floor of the existing building
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Llanmaes House, Llanmaes
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01224/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Conversion of former fire station into eight flats
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Former Fire Station, Court Road, Barry
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01235/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Discharge of condition Nos. 2 and 3 of permission 2013/00839/LBC
Location/Lleoliad:	The Cavalry Barracks, United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01252/LBC

Proposal/Cynnyg:	Internal alterations and replacement of to windows
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Albert Road Primary School, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01259/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Internal alterations at second floor level
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry

#### Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01223/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Conversion of former fire station into eight flats
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Former Fire Station, Court Road, Barry

#### Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01257/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Renewal of application ref: 2007/00751/FUL; 18 self contained residential units over three storeys to replace demolished mix use building
Location/Lleoliad:	67-79, Dochdwy Road (Shopping Parade), Llan-dough

#### May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01230/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Construction of new garden wall
Location/Lleoliad:	Stone Court, Bonvilston

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01274/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed two storey annex containing gym and granny flat
Location/Lleoliad:	Stone Court, Bonvilston

#### Departure from Development Plan/ Gwro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01213/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Erection of 4 no. four bedroom dwellings and garages served by a private drive
Location/Lleoliad:	Land between Heritage Coast House and site of the former Sealawns Hotel, Main Road, Ogmere by Sea

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01217/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed new rural enterprise dwelling incorporating bed and breakfast in connection with Vale Carriages and change of use of land for two shepherds huts for visitors
Location/Lleoliad:	Yard adj Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St. Brides Major

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 16 January, 2014

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# THE BLUEBIRDS (IN RED) TRY OUT PENYBONT'S BRAND NEW 3G PITCH



It was a big night for Penybont FC, the club formed when Bridgend Town and Bryntirion merged, when Cardiff City sent a team to officially open the club's new 3G pitch. The game was arranged by Penybont's first team coach, Nigel Jordan, and Cardiff's development officer, Kevin Cooper. Cardiff won the game 5-0, but there were smiles all round. There was an extra attraction, as Penybont director Alan Whitley had persuaded Malky Mackay to hold a Q&A session in the clubhouse after the game. Penybont's chairman, Emyln Phillips, told The GEM: "It was great credit to Malky that he honoured his promise. He was manager when he accepted but had been sacked a few days before." Not surprisingly, when Penybont director Steve Dalton chaired the Q&A, there were one or two areas off limit due to legal reasons, but no one asked any awkward questions!



## PHOTOGRAPHS by FRANK SHIPTON

Mobile - 07790 882925

Email - frankshipton@mac.com

## PENCOED RFC IMPRESS WITH EMPHATIC WIN OVER TAIBACH

PENCOED, fielding arguably their strongest match day squad for some time, opened their new year league programme well with this decisive 36-13 win over fifth placed Taibach.

The home side got the better of the opening scrum to put them on the offensive, unfortunately conceding a penalty on the floor when in prime position.

Pencoed skipper Marc Davies then did well to retrieve a dangerous kick and chase raid from the

visitors, cleaning up ball on the ground before clearing to touch.

Pencoed were soon to pay the price, however, for not clearing their lines. From a scrum in their 22, Taibach scrum half Kyle Jenkins forced his way over.

Home forwards Dano Howells and Ieuan Watkins carried forcefully from the restart, and play settled around halfway.

Taibach then took play deep into the home half before Pencoed moved the ball wide from a set piece releasing right wing Glen Hiscocks, whose pace took him clear of his opposite

number and a well-controlled kick ahead saw Hiscocks win the race for the touchdown from some 70 metres out.

Pencoed increased their lead prior to the interval when centre Scott Narbeth drove hard at the Taibach midfield to set up the platform for recycled possession and swift hands from co-centre Ken Morris took play to the visitors' line where back row forward Rhys Watkins drove over.

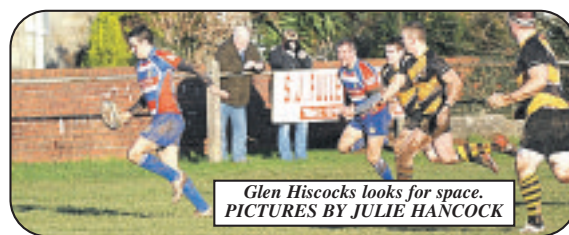
Taibach cut the Pencoed lead early in the second half with a Mike McSweeney penalty.

Home hooker Watkins was again prominent with his driving play and outside half Davies capitalized on front foot ball, throwing a long pass for Hiscocks to race in for his second try.

Taibach then hit back through their pack, and second row Ashley Jones was driven over to bring the score up to 15-13.

The game was now beginning to open up and the home side attacked down the right through Morris and Aaron Halse, and further combined play from Adam Williams and Tom Cross gave Pencoed a position deep in the visitors' 22 where hooker Watkins took a short pass on the angle to force his way over, Davies converting for a 22-13 lead.

Pencoed were now getting on top and looking the fitter side in the heavy ground conditions,



Glen Hiscocks looks for space.  
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Rhys Watkins breaking clear from a scrum, unfortunately losing his footing with the try line beckoning.

The home side were now creating chances all over the park, blindside wing Gareth Dyer splitting the visitors' midfield before a knock on in the shadow of the visitors' posts denied Pencoed.

A fifth home try had to come and Morris put Hiscocks in space with a well-judged pass, the wing finding supporting flanker Josh Halse who crossed for his first try at first team level. Davies converted to make it safe at 29-13.

Pencoed were not finished however and an all-consuming tackle from Narbeth in midfield saw Pencoed counter through several pairs of hands before Morris sprinted away from 40 metres to score, Davies converting for a fine 36-13 victory.

Second row Dano Howells was Pencoed's man of the match.

On Saturday, Pencoed travel to third-placed Maesteg Celtic.

TR



Although the game was only a few days after Cardiff City owner Vincent Tan finally dismissed Malky Mackay, the popular manager kept his promise to attend.

He is pictured with Steve Dalton (above) and with Alan Whitley (below).



## Evan shines in point-to-point

EVAN DAVID (21) who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, gave 20-1 outsider Patrickton Boru "a textbook ride" when landing the restricted race at the Silverton Point-to-Point Steeplechases at Black Forest Lodge last Sunday, said the horse's joint-owner, Bridgend building contractor Roger Willcox.

The seven-year-old bay gelding had previous winners *Soul Native* and *The Crazy Crab* trailing in his wake when romping home by an easy

three lengths in the fastest time of the day.

Mr Willcox, who was full of praise for Evan, said: "Unfortunately, my friend Bill Corrigan who is the other joint-owner missed seeing our horse win as he is on holiday in Mauritius."

Mr Willcox, well known in Welsh hunting circles as a bit of a character, added: "I have had a number of runners over the course but this is the first time I have had a winner here. We could return on February 1 for the Mid-Devon meeting, all going well."

BRIAN LEE



ABOVE: Ieuan Watkins makes a break while  
BELOW: Joshua Halse crosses the whitewash.





# THE YOUNG PHOENIX RISE IN STYLE

**THIS development friendly in the Rhondda Valley between Wattstown under-16 girls and young Phoenix under-16s was hard fought throughout, the Young Phoenix's 19-6 victory based on a superb defensive effort.**

Phoenix full back Keren Williams was called on early in the match to make an important tackle inside her 22.

Opportunist Phoenix half backs Kayleigh Powell at nine and Megan Whittaker at ten threatened early half breaks, before Whittaker showed the defensive side of her game with a superb cover tackle on the home right wing to save what appeared a likely score.

Phoenix second rows Hannah Pound and debutant Emily Carmody then did well, working hard at the maul, before flanker Ella Roberts took out her opposite number with a good tackle to stifle a home attack.

Powell then put Phoenix ahead with a remarkable try, making a 60 metre break before being chopped down on the home 22. She got back to her feet in an instant and left her pursuers to score under the posts. Her teammates were quick to congratulate her; Whittaker converted.

The big home pack were beginning to win ball and asking questions of the Phoenix defence, however the commitment of the Phoenix side from one to fifteen could not be faulted.

Debutant flanker Drew Ludlow was prominent for Phoenix with some strong carries, before the home side breached the Phoenix defence for the first time in the match, their flanker crossing on the blindside.

## NIGEL HEADS TO PENCOED!

**PENCOED under-12s will be playing a very special game against Cwmbran under-12s on January 19 (1pm kick off), refereed by special guest Nigel Owens.**

The game will be held at Pencoed RFC, Felindre Road, and as well as the game, sponsored by Freshstart Properties, there will be a hog roast, raffle, and bar; the match is part of Pencoed RFC's 125th anniversary celebrations.

CC



Ceryn Williams.

Phoenix had introduced their only replacement, 12 year old debutant hooker Jade Thomas, who confirmed the 'super sub' adage by burrowing over to extend the Phoenix lead.

Wattstown came back and threw everything at the Phoenix defence deep in their 22, but conceded a penalty which Phoenix moved quickly to put Whittaker in possession. The outside half beat the first line of defence before outpacing the secondary cover and race away the remaining 70 metres to break Wattstown hearts.

The conversion was added to secure a superb 19-5 victory.

Wattstown chose Phoenix captain on the day Caitlin Jones, playing in the unfamiliar role of No 8, as best forward with Megan Whittaker as best Phoenix back.

In what was essentially an all-round team performance, coaches Leanne Casely and Sarah Hughes were delighted with the commitment in defence of all their team members;

15 Keren Williams, 14 Jenna Dyckhoff, 13 Seren Hart, 12 Bryony Taylor, 11 Megan Griffiths, 10 Megan Whittaker, 9 Kayleigh Powell, 8 Caitlin Jones (c) 7 Ella Roberts, 6 Drew Ludlow, 5 Hannah Pound, 4 Emily Carmody, 3 Carys Baker, 2 Chloe Parish, 1 Shania Rooker; 16 Jade Thomas.

Young Phoenix are still looking to enlarge their squad and welcome all prospective players regardless of ability or experience; under-16 girls interested should contact coach Leanne Casely on 07921312897 for more details.

TR



Kayleigh Powell on her way to scoring for the under-16s.  
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

## Good win for under-16s

**KENFIG HILL under-16s played Mumbles in the return fixture this season after having suffered a narrow loss to them last time out in the final minute of the game.**

The game was played at the Swansea University fields which were in remarkably good condition considering the recent weather.

Kenfig started the stronger and quickly went ahead with a penalty from captain Connor Tatum.

Shortly after, a run from centre Sam Young beginning inside his own half, after collecting a chip through by Tatum, saw him hand off two Mumbles' defenders and as he was brought down five metres short of the try line. He offloaded to left wing Liam Evans who went over in the corner.

Following further sustained pressure from Kenfig Hill a scrum 10 metres out led to Kenfig's second try. The young Mules forwards went through three phases

of play keeping the ball tight before second row Jack Newbury-Wall dived over from close range.

With the conversion successfully slotted by Tatum this put Kenfig 15-0 up with only 15 minutes gone.

This stirred Mumbles into a response as they then had their best period of territory and possession up to the end of the first half without actually managing to score.

Straight from the second half kick-off Mumbles did get on the scoreboard with their forwards scoring directly from a lineout and driving maul.

Kenfig hit back with their third try a kick from scrum half Josh Dixon out of his 22 fortunately bounced into the hands of the chasing Young and he offloaded to Tatum for the fly half to score under the posts giving himself an easy conversion.

Mumbles answered quickly with another try from a line out on the Kenfig 22. Weak Kenfig tackling saw a Mumbles forward

barge his way over the line up the right hand side.

With the score at 22-10 in favour of Kenfig Hill there was an injury to Kenfig loose forward Ethan Jenkins which saw the game stopped short of time for player safety.

The game was well fought from both sides and both teams suffered injuries needing attention. Thankfully Ethan Jenkins has since been given the all clear.

This was a good win for Kenfig beating a team they have failed to on the last two previous outings.

While the pack performed strongly in parts, weak tackling by the forwards allowed Mumbles back into the game.

In the backs some aimless kicking gave possession away which could have been more severely punished on another day. Kenfig have now won three games on the trot and should be high in confidence following their inauspicious start to the season.

JC



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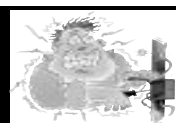
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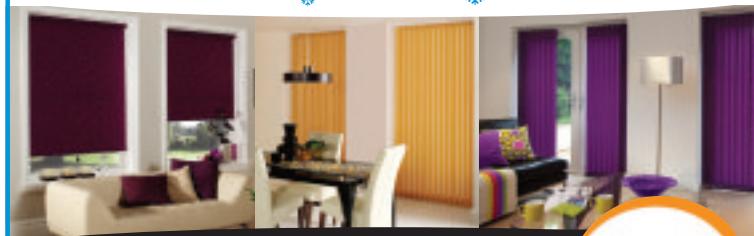
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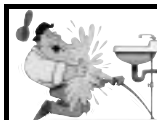
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# 'RUGBY CHAMPIONS CUP NO THREAT TO THE SIX NATIONS'

**I**n the Back Page Comment article last week you state that "the points at issue can be narrowed down to the declared intention of the ... regions ... to break away from the Heineken Cup".

I have a different view – the main point at issue is that the £9m of tournament income referred to later in the article is almost entirely unconfirmed.

Approximately two thirds (£6m) of the £9m is from European Club Rugby (ECR) which organises the Heineken Cup and Amlin Cups. The English clubs and the French clubs have withdrawn from the ERC.

It is highly unlikely that the Heineken Cup will take place next year; if it does, it will be a devalued competition. That puts most or possibly all of the £6m at risk.

The remaining one third of the rest of the tournament income (£3m) comes from the TV rights for the Pro12 league.

There is a rumour that the two Italian teams, which pay £3m to participate, will pull out next year; the sponsor, RaboDirect, is withdrawing and there is no sponsor for 2014/15 in place; and the BBC have not yet renewed the TV contract – they are waiting for the current impasse to be sorted before committing themselves. That puts most or possibly all of the £3m at risk.

If there is no European competition and the Pro10 (as it could be) is devalued, then the intensity of the games will diminish (except for Welsh derbies), players will not develop and fewer people will watch, resulting in less income and sponsorship potential for the regions.

But Welsh players need to be playing high intensity games week in, week out to ensure the success of the national team.

Fundamentally, most of the £9m tournament income and other income of the regions is at risk. The clubs looking to withdraw from ERC is a consequence of that – it is not being done through choice. The regions face financial meltdown if they don't do something about it.

Then there's the £6.6m received directly from the WRU. This is made up of £2.4m core grant, £2.4m for non-Welsh qualified players, £0.6m to

## READER'S VIEWPOINT

contribute towards the academies and £1.2m as compensation for releasing Wales players for extra training and extra matches not sanctioned specifically by the IRB test window.

It's not much to help retain our best players in Wales, who can earn up to £500,000 in France. It's also less than the £10m with which the Irish Rugby Union fund their provinces.

There's a lot of debate about how we got to this point. The regions are not blameless. They have made some poor coaching and management appointments in the past, but have made improvements recently, particularly with capable chief executives in place. The WRU is not blameless either. It has sent out mixed messages and appears to have a focus on control.

One example is development of rugby in the community. The article states the regions' wider role and responsibilities have been "an abject failure". That's an opinion.

The opposite view is that the WRU has not encouraged regions to forge better relationships with local clubs. Andrew Hore, chief executive of the Ospreys, wants closer ties with community clubs, but has been reported as saying that he has been "told repeatedly" by the WRU that they should not be involved with "the community game". There's two sides to every story.

One final point before I summarise, and that is to define what is meant by "the rank and file who ... form the bulk of Welsh rugby". This also is not clear cut! Apart from those who aren't interested, there are four types of rugby followers in Wales:

Followers of the national team who come out for the Six Nations and sometimes for the autumn internationals (nothing wrong with that). They tend to form their opinion on what they read in the headlines.

Supporters of the four regions, who desperately want higher intensity and passionate games (this is where I am).

Supporters and members of the 320 WRU affiliated clubs (not 132 as stated in the article). They

are committed to their community game. Many do not have an allegiance to their region. Some can't stand the regions. Some are WRU through and through. Others do not want to rock the WRU boat because of the funding and ticket allocation they receive.

A mixture of the above three types of followers.

It's complicated! But it's useful to know where commentators on Welsh rugby are coming from when listening to them or reading their views.

So, in summary:

£9m of tournament income for the regions is at risk and they have no control over that.

The Rugby Champions Cup could secure and increase funding into the Welsh game. It could also increase funding to the Irish clubs and protect the Scottish clubs. Bringing in £12m in three years into the Welsh game does not threaten the Six Nations or bring about its demise.

The WRU has a business model, based on the primacy of the national team – but no real vision for the game at grassroots that is inclusive and excites all supporters.

The model has succeeded so far, but it is fragile as it requires ongoing success for the national team which is, to a large extent, dependent on the supply and control of international players which is now under threat.

History shows that any form of central control is not sustainable in the long term.

The regions want to be successful. They might not be the best managed clubs, but it is disingenuous to claim that they are badly managed when they are hamstrung by the straitjacket of the WRU participation/service agreement and having to play in a half-baked league.

Welsh derbies aside, there's marginal kudos in the Pro12, playing in half-empty stadia with depleted teams at unsocial kick-off times.

More crowds, passion and intensity at club level is what I want. I hope others do too. If we get that, the rest might fall into place.

Terry Dennis, St Hilary.

## Local players selected for Welsh squad



**TWO players from the Vale Ladies & Girls Football club were recently celebrating a great achievement by being selected for the girls Welsh regional squad.**

Jasmine Rowley (under-14) and Anais Trincl (under-12) have been impressing coaches at the South Wales Performance Centre and were rewarded with a call up to the regional training camp held at the end of December at the Dragon Park National Centre in Newport.

Both players have worked extremely hard to get to this stage and are now just one tier behind the national setup, with both looking to progress to full international honours in the coming years.

The club are extremely proud to have representation at the Welsh regional level and the girls are following in the footsteps of previous club players, Chloe Jones, Gwennan Davies, Rebecca Egerstrom and Georgia Pelpow, to get selected.

Girls football is becoming more and more popular each year and there are lots of development opportunities for players wanting to progress as well as opportunities for those just wanting to play for fun. The club which pride themselves in giving the girls the very best opportunities and inspiring experiences which is evidenced in our end of season presentation which will be held at the Cardiff City Stadium in May.

"We also enter festivals during the summer months which has included trips into England."

"The club are always recruiting new players so if you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact us on 07832 273688, or email valegirlsfc@gmail.com."

LW

**Did you know you can find The GEM on Twitter? @gem\_news**

CH

## Ladies teams pay tribute to Tim



Sully ladies.



Vale ladies.

**IT was derby day in the Cup as Sully ladies (sponsored by Just For Nailz) hosted the Vale ladies at Sully Sports.**

The game was played in honour of Tim Healey, a local businessman who sadly passed away recently - he was a prominent figure in the success of Sully's girls football team over the years.

He sponsored the team for years and as a mark of respect the girls wore his

kit for the match instead of their usual kit.

Both teams held a minute's silence for the great man who will be sadly missed.

The final score was Sully 3 Vale 1

Ladies football is on the increase with local teams Sully ladies, Vale ladies and Dinas Powys all with strong squads; if you would like to try football come to a training session on Tuesday, from 8pm at the Bryn Hafren Astro Turf pitch.

SB

## Celebration for a Brynhill stalwart

**RIGHT: Shirley O'Donovan and her daughter Helen.**

**ON January 7, Brynhill ladies celebrated Shirley O'Donovan's 80th birthday, arranged by her daughter Helen and aided by Gemma.**

She has been a member of the club for 55 years, played for the first team for 40 years, been club champion 12 times, and held every office.

More than this, 'Our Shirl' has been so supportive in all club activities and helpful to all lady golfers.

Tributes were made by Jan and Carol, and poems



read by Joy and Pam. We had sing songs organised by Helena, accompanied by Liz on the piano.

Old videos were found of the 'Bryntiller girls' of the 90s, and Shirley singing and dancing 'The

Good Ship Lollipop' which she repeated, and not a step out of place!

A wonderful night was enjoyed by 53 ladies, and we're looking forward to her 90th.



## Public Notices

**RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU  
GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS  
O DAN DOEDDF PRIFYDD 1980  
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG  
(LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 2,  
SAINT HILARI)  
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR  
CYHOEDDUS 2013**

Ar 21 Tachwedd 2013, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaed o dan Adran 119 Deddf Prifffydd 1980.

Effeith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd gwyro'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus yn y modd sydd wedi'i egluro yn yr Abodiad Isod ac a weir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copiau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn wedi'u gosod, a cheirw eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn y cyfeiriad isod rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm, yn ystod yr wythnos o 16 Ionawr 2014 hyd 27 Chwefror 2014. Bydd copiau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 16 Ionawr 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilyniad y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o lewngwedd Deddf Prifffydd, yntau na ddyfynfurfiaid â gofynion y Deddf neu reoladau a wnaed o dan y gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolyn hwnnw wneud cas i'r Uchel Lys o dan bennagraff 2 Abodiad 2 o'r Deddf drwy wneud paragraff 5 Abodiad 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r Rhybudd yn gyntaf.

Dyddiedig 16 Ionawr 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu  
Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT



**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION  
OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER  
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980  
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH  
NO 2 ST HILARY)  
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION  
ORDER 2013**

On the 21st November 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the address below from 9.00am to 4.00pm on weekdays from 16th January 2014 until 27th February 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 16th January 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order wishes to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 16th January 2014

Director of Development Services  
Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

**RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN  
(AC EITHURIO GORCHYMYN DIDDYMU  
HANLIAU O DAN DOEDDF  
CAFFAEL TIR)  
DEDDF PRIFYDD 1980  
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG  
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS RHIF 5 SAINT DUNWYD)  
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS  
2013**

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod, a wnaed ar 19 Rhagfyr 2013, o dan Adran 119 o Deddf Prifffydd 1980, yn gwyro Lwybr Cyhoeddus Rhif 5 Sain Dunwyd o gyffwrdd A-B (NGR 294008 167887 i NGR 293938 167897) i gyffwrdd C-D-B (NGR 294012 167906 i NGR 293938 167897) fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copi o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'i storparu, a cheirw eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Docksau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Gwerth brynu copiau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Dylech nodi eich sylwadau ac unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'r gorchymyn, a'u hanfon at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Docksau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT ar y 13 Chwefror 2014. Dylech hefyd nodi eich hysymau dros eu cyflwyno.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i lawr neu os caiff y rheol dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rheddi i gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn yn ddilysrheidiol. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weirddio Cyfraith ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r wrthwynebiadau hysynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon at yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 16 Ionawr 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu,  
Swyddfa'r Doc, Docksau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT



**NOTICE OF MAKING OF  
AN ORDER (OTHER THAN  
AN ACQUISITION  
EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER)  
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980  
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL  
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 5 ST DONATS)  
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION  
ORDER 2013**

The above order, made on the 19th day of December 2013, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert Public Footpath No 5 St Donats from the alignment A-B (NGR 294008 167887 to NGR 293938 167897) to the alignment C-D-B (NGR 294012 167906 to NGR 293938 167897) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 13th day of February 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 19th day of January 2014

Director of Development Services  
Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT



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ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

## Book tells of secret war role for farmer

A NEW book, *A View From The Main Ring - A Farmer's Journey*, written with the help of Gaina Morgan, tells the hitherto untold story of Vale farmer Dillwyn Thomas.

Dillwyn, who is something of a legend in Welsh point-to-point circles, and who farmed the land at Laleston that the Llangineir Hunt used to hold its annual point-to-point races on, has bred, owned and trained many point-to-point winners over the years.

*Cariff Princess, Summer Days II, Prince Haven II* and *Cefn Solomon* are just a few of his popular performers that come quickly to mind.

Dillwyn was a steward at point-to-points for 25 years and on one famous occasion, his late wife Barbara made a little bit of Welsh hunt racing history by standing in for the official race commentator who had failed to turn up at a west Wales meeting. It was the first time anyone could remember a female commentator at a point-to-point!

Earlier this year, Dillwyn, aged 88, was presented with a silver medal by Prince Charles at the Royal Welsh Show, when he retired after 50 years of working in the main ring.

He has recently been in the news after he revealed that during the last war, he was a member of a secret group referred to by Winston Churchill as the British Resistance Organisation.

Dillwyn was a member of the Margam Auxiliary Unit and had trained as an officer cadet at Llandovery College during his school days.

He said: "I was a member of the Homeguard Mounted Unit when I was suddenly approached by the Government and asked whether I had map reading and compass skills, which I did.

"They were looking for someone who knew Margam, the land and area, like the back of their hand."

Dillwyn, having lived on the family farm at Margam, was an ideal candidate.

Port Talbot's Margam Castle had been identified as a potential headquarters for German troops, and Dillwyn was trained at Coleshill House, Wiltshire, in the arts of guerilla warfare, assassination, unarmed combat, demolition and sabotage.

He said: "The next thing I knew I was signing the Official Secrets Act, alongside five other local lads who all worked on the Margam estate."

If the Nazis had attacked Margam, Dillwyn's unit members had orders to destroy a number of key targets, road and rail networks, water and electricity supplies.

Luckily for us, Dillwyn, whose wife Barbara was a leading lady rider in the 1950s, didn't get chance to use his army skills.

A well-respected livestock farmer, Dillwyn has now published his autobiography in collaboration with journalist Gaina Morgan, who has known him since she was a young girl.

His life and experiences have spanned the extraordinary changes of the 20th century, from the days when manual labour and horse power drove the production of food to today's computer chips and satellite systems.

Dillwyn campaigned for weight allowances for young horses in point-to-points, and he saw his wish come true in 1979.

*A View From The Main Ring* costs £10 plus £1.40 p&p and it can be obtained by phoning Gaina Morgan on 07872823366 or by e-mailing: gaina@morganmedia.co.uk.

### MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

**H**YBRIDS are all very well but they're generally smaller than traditional cars, and therefore less user-friendly.

Well, at least that used to be the case with the likes of the Honda CR-Z.

The largest was a hatchback, either a Toyota Prius or the more luxurious Lexus CT200h. No estates.

Well, not until Toyota launched the new Auris Hybrid Tourer, which really does provide the environmentally conscious with a well-sized, capable vehicle but also performance.

Things have really moved on since I drove a hybrid a year ago.

My first acquaintance with the striking island blue estate is at night.

It's always more of a challenge to drive a car you're unfamiliar with when it's dark, for obvious reasons.

A click of the keyfob and I'm inside. The delivery driver was fairly short by all accounts as my knees are around my neck as I sit in the driver's seat. It's easy to adjust.

In common with other

hybrids, I am instantly struck by a feeling of fear as I rummage around for the ignition and even though I push the button start on the right of the steering wheel, there is an unnerving silence.

The automatic box really does not look very substantial but on engaging the reverse function it quietly moves backwards.

There is an electric parking brake and a traditional one; the first car I have come across with two.

The dashboard looks a bit boxy, especially where the sat nav is located; it looks like an after thought.

Over time, the driver does become more used to it, though. It's a large car, not dissimilar to the Ford Focus estate in terms of styling.

Head on it's attractive and the front looks striking and well-designed.

The large panoramic glass roof that stretches from the front to the back of the vehicle has an electric cover and this, in common with those found in Peugeots, is a winning formula.

It really does make the cabin much lighter when the sun does



The Toyota Auris Hybrid Tourer.

decide to show its face.

Despite its loading carrying abilities, this Auris Tourer still feels a very compact and sporty vehicle to drive.

One complaint is that there is not enough legroom in the front but space in the back seems more than adequate.

If you want to be environmentally friendly, then it will travel a mile or two on ev mode at under 30mph, and I notice there's also a battery mode on the auto box, which has the same effect of engaging ev mode.

While driving in a green way is slower, it does have power when required and there is a more urgent tone to the engine, a bit like a high pitched hum when the

accelerator is kicked to the floor. Toyota claims that it will return over 70mpg but the best I have experienced is 49mpg according to the electronic reading.

Overall, this is the best hybrid I have driven to date; not only is it striking in appearance,

it's fast when required and capable.

**Facts at a glance:**  
Toyota Auris Touring Sports Excel Hybrid 1.8 CVT T&G; new price: £24,390; Top speed: 112mph; 0-60mph: 10.9secs; Economy: 49mpg; CO2 emissions: 92 g/km.

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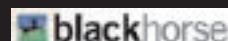


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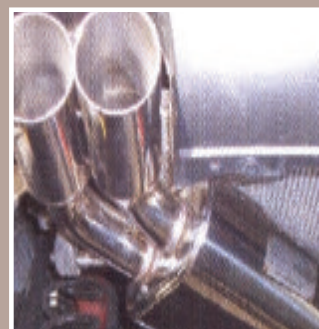
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# GEM sport

## Athletic battle their way to deserved draw

**FOLLOWING their excellent victory at Cardiff last week Bridgend Athletic returned to Championship league action with a home fixture against third placed Pontypool**

It is no coincidence that the three sides openly paying their players occupy the three leading spots in the Championship, with Narbeth trailing run-away champions elect Ebbw Vale.

The Athletic have shown on their day they can compete with any side except Ebbw Vale, and this game was no exception as two well drilled sides fought out a battling 14-14 draw in the mud at Newbridge Fields.

Despite the conditions the large crowd were treated to a highly competitive and entertaining game as the forwards slugged it out for possession to give both sets of backs the opportunities to run at their opponents.

The Athletic drew first blood when a good run by wing Michael Powell set up a good attacking position inside the Pooler 22. The Pontypool defence strayed offside and Steven Lewis kicked the resultant penalty.

For the next 20 minutes both sides attacked in turn. Pontypool wing Ashley Norton looked dangerous and two excellent pieces of defence from Athletic wing Rhys Ward Jones prevented certain tries.

The Athletic were caught offside and outside half Sam Mills levelled the scores with a penalty. The Athletic were awarded their own penalty a minute later but Lewis pulled it wide.

Centre Lyndsey McCausland broke the first line of the Pooler defence with an excellent break, but they recovered to halt the move just short of the try line.

When the Athletic were awarded another penalty 45 metres out, long range specialist Josh White sent the ball high over the upright to put his side 6-3 ahead at the interval.

Just after the restart, 19 year old full back White was again on hand to land a 30 metre penalty from the touchline to stretch the lead to 9-3. A

minute later Mills responded to make the score 9-6.

From the restart the Athletic pressurised Pooler and scrum half Aled Thomas charged down a clearance kick to dribble the ball over the try line and win the chase to touchdown in the corner. The conversion failed but the Athletic lead was extended to 14-6. Mills responded to reduce the deficit to 14-9.

The whole Athletic pack were playing well against heavier opponents with flankers Ben Howe and Sean Williams outstanding and locks Griff Davies and Darren Deguerre and prop Rod Jones putting in hard yardages with their ball carrying. Simon Mustoe, Matt Muir and Dan Apsee were also making vital contributions.

Centres McCausland and Ryan Owen were snuffing out the Pontypool midfield threat with determined tackling. The Athletic brought on four fresh faces in the pack and with the new front row of Jones, Dan Vella and Rod Apsee with lock Tom Penry-Ellis and flanker Callum McCleod in place, pushed the heavier pack back 10 metres.

This saw the second Pooler prop leave the field. The old front row of Graham Price, Bobby Windsor and Charlie Faulkner would have been incredulous to see the once mighty Pooler pack now reduced to passive scrummages.

From one such scrum inside the Athletic 22 No8 Ben Sparks picked up and broke wide to put scrum half Aaron Quick over in the corner to level the scores with 10 minutes remaining.

The Athletic responded and White and Lewis kept Pooler pinned back inside their own 22 for most of the final 10 minutes with astute tactical kicking – but they could not break down a resolute defence. Lewis tried a snap drop goal to no avail.

Pooler, with a penalty, relieved the pressure and had their own chance to win the game in the dying seconds – but wing Trevor James lost possession as he was about to cross the try line. A draw was probably a fair result on the day.

Coaches John Apsee and David Williams took



*Darren Deguerre battles through a Pontypool tackle for the Firsts (picture by GELNNSPORTS), while BELOW: Ashley Adams breaks for the seconds in their cup win against Heol-Y-Cyw (picture by KERRY FOTHERGILL).*



a lot of positives from the game with young Josh White being named man of the match.

This Saturday the Athletic make the short journey to Pandy Park to take on Tondy, which is sure to be another full bodied encounter – not for the faint hearted.

**Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV 15 Heol Y Cyw 2nd XV 0 Quarter final - Enoch Lewis District Cup**

**Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV won a hard fought encounter 15-0 with their Heol Y Cyw counterparts to progress to the semi-final stage of the Enoch Lewis District Cup.**

They only led 3-0 at the interval through a Tom Cole penalty and relied on two second half tries from replacements Ashley Adam and Hywel Davies and a Tom Cole

conversion to secure the victory.

Flanker Aaron Mordecai and hooker Lewis Down were the best Athletic forwards with centre Hywel Davies and wing Andrew Tyler the best backs on the day.

AB



*Penybont FC recently welcomed a Cardiff City XI to open their new 3G pitch. It was also notable for the attendance of Malky Mackay, who answered fans' questions at a Q&A. SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 28.*

## Porthcawl Youth show no rust with victory

**PORTHCAWL youth showed no post-Christmas rust as they began 2014 by completing the double over Bryncethin.**

The Seaweeds' talented crop of youngsters, who have only lost three games all season under the coaching of Matthew Owen, returned from a three-week hiatus to record a 32-3 success.

Porthcawl had beaten Bryncethin 24-0 at home in the first meeting between the two teams back in October and were always in control of the rematch.

They forged a useful 15-3 halftime lead thanks to tries by their centre pairing of Jake Thomas and Tom Matthews and five points from the boot of Ollie Banner.

Meanwhile, the other Tom Matthews joined fellow prop Ben Wall, hooker Jack Williams, and locks Rhys Mortimer and Emyr Wile to form a dominant front-five. Former Bridgend star Owen said of this quintet: "They laid the platform for the backs to reap the rewards."

Indeed, the coach was satisfied with the performance of the entire team, praising the pack for their hard work as a unit and the backs for the way they executed some classy moves, despite the boggy conditions underfoot.

Owen described Williams as "outstanding" and the hooker was next on the scoresheet when he drove over for a second-half try.

Outside-half Banner, whose excellent form has earned him a call-up to the Ospreys' under-18

ranks in recent weeks, then touched down after a solo effort and converted to ensure Porthcawl's latest victory of an already encouraging campaign.

The final word belonged to one of the forwards, however, as back-rower Gareth Evans-Rees capped a powerful display of ball-carrying by crossing for his team's fifth try.

As well as compiling some exceptional results during his first season as coach, Owen has been prepared to offer oppor-

tunities to as many players as possible and continued this policy at Bryncethin by handing Aaron Martin his first start on the wing.

Porthcawl youth will visit Penarth for a friendly next Saturday before hosting Tondy and Llanharan later in the month.

Tries: Jake Thomas, Tom Matthews, Jack Williams, Ollie Banner, Gareth Evans-Rees; conversions: Banner (2); penalty: Banner.

HP

## Porthcawl Bridge Club news

**THE Christmas holidays effectively closed the club for 10 days, but either side of the break there has been considerable activity.**

In December, the club championship pairs was won by Janet Richards and Keith Davison.

John Cobby and Tony Haworth won the 'win a turkey night' – a £25 voucher each to be spent on Christmas fayre.

The New Year saw a successful party – the club provided wine to

complement the fine cuisine provided by the ladies.

Also, the Margaret Thomas Bowl – the club teams event, was won by Ken Jenkins' team. Nice to see Ken back after his heart operation. The results over the Christmas period were:

Thursday, December 12: Club Championship Pairs – First, Janet Richards and Keith Davison; second, Peter Richards and Sandie Jenkins.

Saturday, December 14: First, John Beard and Tony Haworth; second, Marie Hartland and Sheila Storer.

Monday, December 16: – First, Peter and Sandie Jenkins; second, Gary Williams and Tony Haworth.

Thursday, December 19: 'Win a Turkey Night' – First, John Cobby and Tony Haworth; second, Trish Saunders and Janet Richards.

Saturday, December 21: First, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second, Marie Hartland and Margaret McCormack.

Thursday, January 2: First, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second, Maurice and Margaret

Harris.

Saturday, January 4: New Year's Party – First, Liam Sheridan and Tony Haworth; second, Colin and Hazel Heard.

Monday, January 6: First, Peter and Sandie Jenkins; second, Roger Plant and Terry Dolan.

Thursday, January 9: Club Team Championship – First: Ken Jenkins, Pat Haworth, Tony Haworth, Gary Williams; Second, Terry Dolan, Roger Plant, Marian Evans, Pat Roper.

The next major event in the club calendar is the charity simultaneous event on January 25 from which the proceeds will be donated to the Philippine Islands to assist in the relief following last year's typhoons – visitors especially welcome.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm-10.15pm, visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club telephone 01656 785794. TH

## BRIDGE RESULTS

**THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:**

Wednesday, January 8 - first Liam Sheridan and John Beard, second Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox, third Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage.

Friday, January 10 (North/South) - first Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, second Graham Jones and Irene Thomas, third Morma and David Newman; East/West - first Mari Jones and Irene Wickham, second Rob Forman and Jeff Barnett, third Wendy Williams and Jane Brook.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton

Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, January 9, were Linda Jenkins Teresa Griffiths and Stuart Davies.

Lessons for improvers also take place on a Thursday afternoon; to register an interest please contact Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) or John Evans (01656 880372), either of whom will welcome your call.

DN